

## Iraq seeks 5 years grace for compensation

GENEVA (R) — Iraq has asked the United Nations for a five-year moratorium in making payments to a compensation fund for victims of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. An Iraqi oil ministry official, Mohammad Reda Al Shadidi, made the request on Monday to the governing council of the U.N. compensation fund. His remarks at the closed-door meeting were made available to Reuters Wednesday. "We think that Iraq should be granted a five-year grace period to have time to adjust its economy in a way which permits it to meet its international financial obligations and pay for its basic needs," Mr. Shadidi said in a speech in Arabic. Leading members of the governing council such as the United States and Britain showed they have little sympathy when Iraq says it needs money to rebuild, since Baghdad has refused to sell the \$1.6 billion of oil authorised by the U.N. Security Council. The governing council comprises the 15 members of the Security Council. Mr. Shadidi's appearance was the latest in a series of U.N.-Iraqi contacts in which Baghdad has discussed conditions for the possible resumption of oil sales. An embargo was slapped on shortly after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

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## Kuwait, Britain to sign defence pact

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Britain will sign a wide-ranging defence pact during a visit to London by the emirate's defence minister early in February, British Defence Secretary Tom King said Wednesday. "I'm very much hoping to welcome the minister (Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah) to the United Kingdom early in February to sign a memorandum between our countries for mutual defence cooperation," Mr. King told Reuters in an interview. "It's clear we've made very good progress on finalising the details," he said. Mr. King, in Kuwait on the last leg of a Gulf tour, said Kuwait had also given the British Kuwait Defence Group — British firms headed by Taylor Woodrow International — a letter of intent for repairing its damaged naval base. British sources travelling with the minister said potential contracts would involve around £100 million (\$180 million) of work. Mr. King said the joint defence pact would cover planning, training, joint exercises and supply of equipment. Kuwait signed a similar 10-year agreement with the United States last year. Sheikh Ali, who was also present at the interview, told Reuters Kuwait planned to upgrade its army but the aim was to have a more sophisticated, better equipped and trained force rather than a larger one.

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## Israel plans for 1/2 million settlers in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli peace activists said Wednesday that the government plans 140,000 new housing units in Jewish settlements, enough to move about 500,000 more settlers to the occupied territories.

The Peace Now organisation released a report on expansion of the settlements as the U.S. Congress was soon to debate the issue in line with Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees.

The group charged that the Israeli government maintains "a dense smokescreen" over its plans to avoid foreign criticism of the settlements, which have been called obstacles to peace by the United States.

Amiram Goldblum, the group's spokesman, said settlements were being expanded in the government's effort to annex the occupied territory, not because Israelis want to move to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This huge construction is not a response to demand, nor to natural growth in the occupied territories, but to the political will of the government," he said. He said there were thousands of empty apartments and mobile homes in existing settlements.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday that the government's settlement drive would not stop despite U.S. requests to suspend settlement building as a gesture during American-sponsored peace talks in Washington.

U.S. policy backs U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from the territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war in exchange for peace.

Eran Hyatt, who did a field survey of the settlements, said the figure of 140,000 new units planned in the territories was contained in a housing ministry document that did not make clear when the construction would take place.

A spokesman for the Israeli housing ministry did not return phone calls. Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said last November he hoped to increase the settler population by 50,000 just in 1992.

(See related story on page 2)

## Gates: Mideast talks could bring attacks

WASHINGTON (R) — Robert Gates, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, said on Wednesday that Middle East peace talks might bring terrorist attacks on the meeting participants and the United States. Mr. Gates told the Senate Armed Services Committee that although attacks by terror groups had diminished recently, they were still a threat. "We can foresee several potential terrorist trouble-spots in coming years," Mr. Gates, who oversees the entire U.S. intelligence apparatus, said in an opening statement. "Developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process, for example, are likely to stimulate attacks against various participants, including the United States, by groups opposed to the negotiations," Mr. Gates said. He did not specify which groups might carry out such attacks or which of the Middle East participants might be targeted.

## American archaeologist buried in West Bank

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AP) — American archaeologist Albert Ernest Glock was buried Wednesday, three days after he was slain in nearby Bir Zeit where he taught for 16 years. About 150 people, most of them Palestinians or foreign faculty members at Bir Zeit University, attended the funeral at the main Christian cemetery in this Arab town about 15 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

## Israeli army storms West Bank homes; dozens arrested

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops and security forces stormed into Arab houses in the occupied West Bank and arrested dozens of Palestinians during the night in a hunt for gunmen who have ambushed Jewish settlers.

The raids by the army, secret service and police were launched a day after the army announced it had sent extra troops to the West Bank to curb shooting attacks on settlers that began just before Middle East peace talks opened in October.

The army said curfews were imposed on Ramallah and the adjoining town of Al Bireh for the round-up operation.

"During the late hours of the night, army, general security services, police and border police forces conducted a wide-ranging search operation in Judea and Samaria (Israel's names for the West Bank), arresting dozens of suspects in Nablus and Ramallah," the military said in a statement on Wednesday.

Witnesses said soldiers smashed in the door of architect Khaled Bakir's house in al Bireh

and damaged the walls and floor with a sledge hammer. Soldiers went through everything in the house before arresting Mr. Bakir, who is 36.

"They even checked the diapers (nappies) of his two-month-old daughter," a neighbour reached by telephone said.

Security sources said the campaign was aimed at Palestinians believed affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the Arab-Israeli peace talks and is suspected by Israel of masterminding the ambush attacks.

Three settlers and two other Israelis, including the driver of a bus carrying settlers, have been killed since October 28.

One security source estimated that 30 Palestinians were arrested in the Ramallah area and 30 more in Nablus.

The Israeli army announced on Tuesday it had increased the number of soldiers in the West Bank by 20 per cent and said reserve troops were being replaced by well-trained regular troops.

Undercover forces had also

stepped up their activities in the area, the army said.

The new measures were seen as an attempt to placate the 100,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who have accused Defence Minister Moshe Arens and the army of doing little to protect them against armed attacks.

Settlers said they were pleased by the security crackdown in the West Bank and had ended their protests against Mr. Arens.

In December the army conducted an arrest campaign against suspected PFLP activists in the occupied territories. Early this month Israel issued deportation orders against 12 Palestinian activists, several of them suspected PFLP members.

Israeli troop reinforcements were visible in the West Bank on Wednesday morning. Israeli army jeeps roamed the deserted streets of the twin towns of Ramallah and Al Bireh, while soldiers watched from rooftops.

Soldiers set up roadblocks on the main Jerusalem-Ramallah road and checked identity cards of people travelling in both directions.

in the West Bank city of Hebron, Israeli soldiers raided the Polytechnic College hours before student elections were to take place on Wednesday and arrested 10 students, Palestinians said.

They said soldiers forced students to leave the campus and set up checkpoints at the entrances to the college.

Fayek Awad, a resident of Ramallah, said dozens of soldiers raided his apartment building shortly after midnight and arrested five people, including his daughter Ghadir, a 28-year-old teacher who had to leave behind her 2-year-old son.

Mr. Awad said eight soldiers entered his apartment and demanded to see identity cards, but did not explain their presence.

"They went into every room and turned everything upside down. The whole house was full of mud," Mr. Awad said.

Settlers leaders praised the arrest sweep. "Any action aimed against Arab terror that murders American citizens, Jews and Druse is appreciated," said settler spokesman Aharon Domb.

## Moscow hopes all parties will participate in multilaterals

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia, co-sponsor of the Middle East peace conference, said on Wednesday it still hoped all parties would attend the Moscow meeting next week.

Vitaly Churkin, spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry, said Moscow had not heard what it considered the final word on participation by Arab delegations, including the Palestinians.

But he told reporters the Moscow round, set for January 28 and 29, could prove valuable even if some key teams were absent.

"In our view it is not absolutely necessary that all the parties attend (the) Moscow meetings. After all, it is only an organisational meeting, a talk about talks," Mr. Churkin said.

"And we think it will be possible even if attendance is below 100 per cent to have that meeting and to have a useful meeting."

Mr. Churkin said Moscow had yet to hear what it viewed as definitive refusals. Syria and

Lebanon have announced they will boycott the meeting and the Palestinians have yet to respond.

"We hope everybody will attend. We think the final word on that has not yet been said by everybody, by those who are reluctant at this point to attend," Mr. Churkin said.

He said consultations with the Palestinians were still under way on the issue, with the latest meeting in Moscow on Monday.

The United States, co-sponsoring the peace conference with Russia, on Tuesday urged Palestinians and other Arabs to attend the meeting.

China to attend

In Peking China Wednesday confirmed it will attend Middle East multilateral talks.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang said he would go to the talks in Russia.

"Yes, I will go," he told reporters in answer to a question while

he escorted visiting Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy around Peking's forbidden city.

Arafat in Cairo

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived Wednesday to discuss with Egyptian officials whether or not to attend next week's Mideast talks in Moscow.

Mr. Arafat was met at Cairo international airport by Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Osama Al Baz, director of President Hosni Mubarak's political office.

"We came here to have expanded and deep discussions about the peace process in Washington or what will happen with the other steps in the future," Mr. Arafat told reporters, adding he had sent Mr. Mubarak a message on the situation Tuesday. It was not immediately clear if Mr. Arafat would meet with Mr. Mubarak.

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## Arafat praises Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Tuesday praised the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination during the peace talks held in Washington this month, saying that the second round of talks had clearly demonstrated this close cooperation.

In an interview with the Arabic language weekly Akhbar Al Usbou, to be published this Thursday, Mr. Arafat said the Jordanian delegation could have entered the conference room during the second round of talks, but declined to do so, and stayed with the Palestinian negotiators in a gesture of solidarity and support.

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## Majali hopes next round of peace talks would focus on substance

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday said he anticipated holding a fourth round of talks in Washington next month. Dr. Majali voiced hope that the forthcoming talks will focus on issues of substance included in the agenda of the talks, such as the interpretation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, the 4th Geneva Convention, land, water and settlements.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Majali said the delegation would

not accept moving the venue of talks from Washington unless the host country did not want to host it there, or until it became clear that there are genuine and honest intentions to make the talks a success.

Asked about the potential impact of the multilateral talks on the peace process and whether they will address the issues pertaining to the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora, Dr. Majali said the Moscow conference has no executive status. He pointed out that Jordan would explain to the conference its concept of peace and said that com-

mittees would be formed to define topics of discussion, venues and dates of the meetings.

He stressed that there would be no negotiations nor any normalisation of relations in the Moscow conference, because normalisation cannot be reached without resolving pending issues, such as the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, Jewish settlements, and water issues.

Dr. Majali said that all Arab parties considered settlements as an obstacle to peace and that even the West views them in the same context. On the representation of Palestinians from the di-

aspora in the conference, Dr. Majali said that that was a problem facing the conference.

However, the important thing is to find an equation that would be acceptable to all parties concerned, he added.

Asked whether the United States will put pressure on Israel through the \$10 billion loan guarantees issue, Dr. Majali said America had throughout the past been supporting the Israeli economy, the Israeli military and Israeli policies because the U.S. is linked with a strategic treaty to

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## Committee calls on Arabs to block exit of Palestinian deportees

By Sana Attiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian Deportees Committee, representing 3,000 expelled by Israel since 1967, Wednesday urged Arab countries neighbouring Israel and the occupied territories to refuse taking in any deportee and called on the International Red Cross (ICRC) to assume its responsibilities for their return home.

The chairman of the committee lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, who himself was deported from Jerusalem in 1967, told a press conference that blocking Palestinian deportees' entry into the Arab countries and handing them over to the

ICRC was the only method to confront the Israeli policy of deportation.

"It is the right of these Arab governments (where the deportations may take place), practising their right of sovereignty, to refuse accepting the deportees on their soil regardless of any pain the deportees may face temporarily," Mr. Bakr said in the press conference at the Palestine National Council in Amman.

He added that the deportees should remain in the area of their deportation until the ICRC and the United Nations representatives in the respective Arab capital took responsibility for their well-being and return home. He called for the

placing of security forces at border points where deportations take place to halt the deportees entry into any Arab country.

Such measure taken by the Arab countries, Mr. Bakr maintained, alleviate (Palestinian) fears that the Palestinians would permanently settle in the Arab world, emptying the occupied territories of its rightful owners and leaving room for the Israelis to build more Jewish settlements.

The committee's call, which will be delivered to the concerned Arab embassies in Amman and the Jordanian government, came after the latest Israeli decision on Jan. 2 to deport 12 Palestinians from the

West Bank and Gaza Strip accused of anti-Israeli activities.

On Tuesday, an Israeli army panel turned down appeals of seven Palestinians ordered expelled from the Gaza Strip,

and the hearing of appeals of five others from the West Bank is expected to take place in a few days.

The Israeli deportation decision delayed the third round of bilateral Mideast peace talks in

Gazans appeal to high court

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Seven Palestinians threatened with deportation from the occupied Gaza Strip appealed to Israel's highest court on Wednesday to delay the order, security sources said. Israel early this month announced it has issued deportation orders against the Gazans and five West Bank Palestinians after four Israelis were shot dead in separate ambushes in the occupied territories since October. A military panel in Gaza on Monday upheld army orders to expel the seven Palestinian residents. But military authorities delayed implementation of the decision until 2000 GMT on Wednesday to allow the Gazans time to appeal to the high court of justice, security sources said.



His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos of Oman hold talks in Muscat Wednesday before the King's return to Amman (Petra photo)

## King returns from Oman, Brunei visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Wednesday after a three-day visit that took him to Brunei and Oman. King Hussein held talks with Sultan Hassan Bulkiyah of Brunei and Sultan Qaboos of Oman. The King was received at the airport by Her Majesty Queen Noor. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed, the personal representative of the King, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shak-

er, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the King's private secretary and the Omani charge d'affaires in Amman. The King was accompanied during the visits by Royal Court Chief Adnan Abu Odeh and the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Princes Talal Ben Mohammad.

Qaboos, members of the Omani royal family, senior Omani officials and Jordan's ambassador to Oman. Shortly after arriving in Amman, King Hussein sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos thanking him for the hospitable reception. The King wished the Sultan continued good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity. The King's visit to Oman was the first since the Gulf crisis. Oman and Jordan maintain good relations.

## Authorities arrest FIS leader, ban assembly around mosques

ALGIERS (AP) — The leader of Algeria's Muslim fundamentalist party was arrested Wednesday as the government announced that all assembly around mosques had been banned, the official state radio reported.

The Islamic Salvation Front said its acting President Abdel Kader Hachani had been arrested at 5:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) in Badjara, a suburb of Algiers and a party stronghold.

The official Algerian news agency AFS, quoting "sources close to the government," said Mr. Hachani's arrest followed his call to members of the National People's Army to revolt.

About the time Mr. Hachani was arrested, the government announced that it was banning all public assembly around mosques. "All gatherings around mosques are officially forbidden no matter what the day or hour," the

prefecture of Algiers said in a published statement.

The ban comes two days before Friday prayers, the traditional political forum for the fundamentalist FIS, and undermines the ability of the party to organise opposition activities.

Since being recognised as a legal party in 1989, mosques have been the primary place for party

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## 41 deputies call on Algerian leaders to resume elections, government objects

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Forty-one members of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday signed a statement calling on Algerian officials to resume the parliamentary elections process and form a national government from those elected but a cabinet minister objected to the method in which the statement was prepared and said the wording of the statement describing it as interference in the internal affairs of Algeria.

The strongly-worded one-page statement, according to parliamentary sources, was originally proposed by the Muslim Brotherhood deputies who later collected the signatures of the Democratic Bloc, the Constitution Bloc and independent deputies.

"The government considers this move an interference in the internal affairs of Algeria," acting Information Minister and Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Kabariti told the House.

The statement appealed to "the officials in Algeria to respect the will of the Algerian people and resume parliamentary elections so that a government can be formed, entirely from the members of the elected house, which would be accepted by the Algerian people out of their own free will."

A verbal clash followed the reading of the statement in the House, when Mr. Kabariti voiced the government's objection to the unilateral move by deputies to write a statement and sign it without putting a motion through the House for discussing the issue and hearing the government's opinion on such a statement.

"It is an objection to the procedure adopted in bringing this statement to the House and not an objection to its call for democracy," a government official told the Jordan Times later.

The statement warned against what it said was "bypassing the Algerian constitution" and said this could lead to "obstructing

democracy and parliamentary life in Algeria."

"It will also lead to dissipating the unity of the Algerian people, internal clashes and will bring back the military dictatorship to control the destiny of the Muslim Arab Algerian people," the statement added.

Mr. Kabariti argued, during Wednesday's House session, that the statement was not binding to the government since it was not borne out of the proper parliamentary procedure in these cases.

"Statements signed outside the House are not binding to the government and represent the opinions of only those who signed them," Mr. Kabariti said.

The statement called on the Algerian army to limit its duties to "defending the land of Algeria and participating in the liberation of the raped Arab and Islamic territories in occupied Palestine and elsewhere."

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Ibrahim Bakr does not include women married to Palestinians in the occupied territories who have been forced to leave their husbands

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## Saudis host U.S. Jewish delegation for the first time

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia for the first time has welcomed a group of American Jewish leaders, the head of the delegation said Wednesday.

The unprecedented move underscored the kingdom's commitment to the Middle East peace-making process.

"This is the first time I know of that a Jewish delegation representing a major Jewish organisation has ever visited this country," said Henry Siegman, leader of the delegation from the American Jewish Congress (AJC).

Mr. Siegman spoke to the Associated Press by telephone from the guest palace where his delegation has been staying since it arrived Sunday.

He was in a rush, saying he had a "luncheon engagement" but would not reveal with whom. Saudi officials said the delegation had nine members, while a Jewish official in Israel said eight.

The Jewish official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the delegation was to meet with King Fahd. The visit also was reported by Israel's Hebrew daily Haaretz, which said the meeting with King Fahd would be in Riyadh Wednesday.

Officially, the king is on holiday.

Mr. Siegman said the delegation already had met with the Riyadh governor, Prince Salman, a brother to King Fahd, and the foreign minister, Prince Saud Ben Faisal. But he would not say who else.

Asked about the substance of the talks with the two officials he named, he said it was "the peace process."

The Saudi news media have not reported the visit of the Jewish delegation, which has been kept low key.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has been the key financial backer of most of the Arab states and a staunch supporter of the Arab boycott of the Jewish state.

Only a year ago, the Saudis denied an entry permit to U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, a New Jersey Democrat, because he had an Israeli visa in his passport.

Before the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab countries would not allow visitors if their passports had the stamp of the Jewish state.

During the war, thousands of the 540,000 U.S. troops deployed for Operation Desert Storm were American Jews.

The Jewish official said the historic visit follows two years of contacts between prominent Jewish leaders and the Saudi ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan.

In an unprecedented move, Prince Bandar in November addressed a major forum of Jewish organisations in New York City. Mr. Siegman was quoted by the New York Times as saying the November meeting led to Tuesday's encounter.

The Times said the Jewish delegation would next meet with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo and King Hussein in Amman before arriving in Israel on Sunday to brief Israeli officials on its talks. Sources in Saudi Arabia confirmed that the delegation was to leave for Egypt later Wednesday.

## Settlers increased by more than 18% in 1991

TEL AVIV (AP) — Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, whose growth is at the centre of strains in U.S.-Israeli relations, gained more than 18.5 per cent in population in the past year.

The settlements are a contentious issue in U.S.-sponsored Mideast peace talks in Washington and are expected to be the focus of a congressional debate next month on Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees.

Despite U.S. pleas for Israel to stop building settlements as a gesture of peace, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday a drive to expand settlements would not be halted.

Bob Lang, a settler spokesman, said Tuesday that about 115,000 Jews now live in the occupied territories, including about 6,000 Soviets who have immigrated from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

Mr. Lang said his figures were estimates, and the housing and interior ministries did not respond to requests for figures on settlers.

But Mr. Lang's settler council said figures through last September showed 107,825 Jews in the occupied West Bank and 4,300 others in the Gaza Strip.

That amounts to an increase of 18.5 per cent over the 94,650 settlers at the end of 1990.

The liberal Haaretz daily has estimated the settler population would rise to 141,000 by the end of 1992 and to 185,000 in 1993, based on the current pace of construction.

Opposition legislators, citing housing ministry documents, say the government started 18,273 new housing units in the West Bank and 1,540 in Gaza last year.

Mr. Lang's council says there are 142 settlements. Leftist lawmakers charge there are more since some new "neighbourhoods" are really new settlements, but they say the number of residents may be inflated in a bid to increase the settlers' influence.

The settlements were joined with the loan guarantee issue in

September when President George Bush asked Congress to delay considering a request for the guarantees as a way to get Israel into peace talks.

Mr. Bush considers the settlements obstacles to peace. Some congressmen have urged cutting back Israel's request for loan guarantees — intended to help absorb a wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants — by the amount it spends on settlements.

The settler population has grown from 3,176 in 1977 when Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc first gained power, defeating the opposition Labour Party. It has ruled for all but two years since.

Mr. Shamir is opposed to giving up any of the lands seized in the 1967 Middle East war. Palestinians complain Israel's settlement drive is undermining the Washington negotiations, which are based on U.S. resolutions urging Israel to surrender occupied land in exchange for peace.

"If Palestinian land is being taken to build for Jews exclusively, then it predetermines the outcome of the negotiations," Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab said Tuesday.

About 65 per cent of the settlers are secular and the other 35 per cent religious. But Mr. Lang said all share the conviction that the West Bank and Gaza are an "integral part of Israel" and should be annexed.

He acknowledged that many settlers were lured by government subsidies. But he added: "Even if people will tell you at first that they moved here because they wanted a cheaper house, in everyone's mind there is some form of Zionism."

About 65 per cent of the settlers were born in Israel, Mr. Lang said. Another 15 to 18 per cent, the second largest group, immigrated from the United States.

"People who leave America come here for pioneering reasons, and it's only natural they might end up in a place with an ideological commitment," said Mr. Lang, who is from Suffern, New York.

## Damascus Radio calls for firmer approach to Israel

DAMASCUS (AP) — State-owned Damascus Radio has urged the United States and international community to be firmer to pressure Israel to settle the 44-year-old Middle East dispute according to U.N. resolutions.

"Inasmuch as the international community, headed by the United States, show firmness and determination to implement Security Council resolutions and threaten to take deterrent measures against Israel, Israelis will realise they are not above law," the radio said.

Syria insists that Israel should withdraw from the Golan Heights and other Arab territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338.

The radio called on the Arabs to "follow Syria's suit and refuse to give in to the Zionist blackmail."

It said Syria's refusal to participate in the proposed multilateral talks in Moscow aimed at "making Israel understand that there will be no discussion of cooperation issues in the region without an explicit commitment to withdraw from occupied lands and recognise Palestinian rights."

Syria made clear even before the peace talks began that it would not attend multilateral negotiations on Regional issues — such as water resources, arms control and economic cooperation — until Israel had agreed to exchange land for peace.

"It is the right of one government in the world to push an entire region into a great danger that would threaten world peace and security and hinder the true desire in establishing the new world order on bases of justice and peace," the radio said.

It said: "Now after three months of peace talks in Madrid and Washington we have not heard that Israel was ready to achieve peaceability now rests with the international community and it is up to the world to announce its fair judgement," the radio said.

Meanwhile, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Baath, criticised Arab states that plan to attend the multi-national peace conference scheduled to open in Moscow Jan. 28.

"In whose interest such negotiations will be?" the newspaper asked. "In the interests of the Arabs or Israel?"

"Israel through such negotiations will get all it wants without losing anything. It will gain normalisation of its relations with Arab negotiators, while occupied Arab land will remain in Israeli hands," the paper said.

The paper said it was unfortunate that Arabs fail to take a unified stand with regard to the multilateral negotiations, "which are considered the most dangerous step in the future of the Arab Nation."

## Powell aggravated by Saddam's power hold

WASHINGTON (AP) — General Colin Powell, the chief military adviser to President George Bush, said Tuesday the political survival of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "still causes me to grind my teeth" a year after the Gulf war.

Gen. Powell defended Mr. Bush's handling of the war, including his decision to end it 100 hours into the ground campaign with President Saddam still in power.

"The number two military threat to Israel and to our other friends in the region is a shadow of its former self," the four-star general said in reference to the Iraqi army.

"Yes, Saddam Hussein is still there, he's still a problem, he still causes me to grind my teeth, but he's principally a problem for the Iraqi people, not for us," Gen. Powell said in a speech to the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors.

Gen. Powell rejected the argument that President Saddam's continued hold on power in Baghdad detracts from the significance of the allied military victory.

"We won the Gulf war. All the second-guessing and Monday morning quarterbacking isn't going to change that simple fact," he said.

**Tube export to Iraq**

A contractor supplying the barrel for Iraq's supergun told Britain's House of Commons committee Tuesday that the firm believed the steel tubes were for an oil installation.

Rest Bayliss, the former managing director of the Walter Somers firm, said he had spoken

to the Ministry of Defence's materials expert and believed the firm had the government's approval to export the tubes to Iraq.

But Mr. Bayliss said the company did not apply for an export licence for the 10-metre tubes, costing £350,000.

He told the committee he spoke to the Department of Trade and Industry's export licence unit.

"I was given no instruction to cease the order. No one stopped us," Mr. Bayliss said.

Ken Hedley, Walter Somers' commercial director, told the committee, the Iraqis paid £150,000 (£270,000) in advance for the tubes so he was "quite relaxed" about the deal.

The so-called supergun project came to light in April 1990 when British customs officers seized sections of a giant steel tube at an English seaport.

The committee heard evidence last week from the contractor hired to design and build the giant gun.

Christopher Cowley, a former executive with Space Research Corporation of Brussels, said the gun was to be used for launching satellites.

The 22-section supergun has been broken up, but United Nations inspectors reported last month that Iraq had not fully destroyed the device. However, inspectors said the remaining parts were not enough to build a working gun.

Iraq has assembled and tested a smaller version of the gun that was located north of Baghdad. That gun was demolished during a previous inspection visit.

## Kuwait to receive Hornet fighters

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will take delivery of the first of 40 U.S. FA-18 Hornet fighter planes on Saturday, a senior Defence Ministry Official said.

Three of the planes, flown by Kuwaiti pilots, left the United States for the emirate on Tuesday.

They will be based at Kuwait's civilian airport until the end of May when repairs at military airbases are completed.

Kuwait ordered the 40 Hornets in a 1.6 billion deal before Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion. They will all be delivered by the end of next year. Hornets were used by the United States in the Gulf war to drive Iraqi forces from the emirate.

Kuwait is considering buying 35 more of the McDonnell Douglas planes but officials say this could be delayed because of heavy post-war financial burdens.

## Polisario says Morocco tortures jailed supporters

ALGIERS (R) — Polisario guerrillas accused Moroccan forces Wednesday of torturing jailed supporters seized in night round-ups in the Western Sahara.

"Hospitals in the main occupied towns are constantly receiving detainees, arrested at the start of this campaign of repression, to treat their wounds after torture in prison," the Polisario Front said in a statement.

The Polisario, seeking independence of the former Spanish colony, said last week that 400 people had been detained.

"Police surround the main areas of each town at night from 9 p.m. and round up (people) in the streets, especially young men," it alleged then.

Rabat has not responded to the accusations, which could not be verified independently.

In its latest statement the Polisario names 13 supporters it said had been added to "growing ranks of victims of Morocco's repressive campaign."

Both the Polisario and Morocco, which claims the phosphate-rich Western Sahara, have accused the other of trying to sabotage a United Nations plan.

Last September a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire, followed by the deployment of some U.N. peacekeeping, officially ended

nearly 16 years of war.

"It is extremely urgent that the (U.N.) civil police are deployed to ensure the protection of our population," the Polisario statement said.

It repeated calls for international pressure on Rabat to end what it called "this repression silently smothering our civilian population in the occupied zones."

A U.N.-controlled referendum giving Saharans the choice between independence or integration with Morocco was due this month but diplomats say it is running months late.

The front has protested formally to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and called for fast U.N. deployment, the Algerian news agency said late Tuesday.

Polisario coordinator Bachir Mustapha Sayed, leading with the U.N. peacekeeping force, told Dr. Ghali that 200 young students had been arrested in the main town Al A'youm.

It was not clear if the 200 were part of the 400 the front said earlier had been seized by the Moroccan.

Mr. Sayed also accused Rabat of sending combat planes over Saharan positions on Monday in a fresh violation of the ceasefire.

## Libya: Security Council vote unacceptable

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Libya on Wednesday described as unjust and unacceptable a Security Council vote calling for the surrender of two men accused of blowing up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

Libya's second in command, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, used a four-hour transit stop in New Delhi to protest to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao against India's support for Tuesday's United Nations vote, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"The resolution was unjust and unacceptable," Mr. Jalloud was quoted as telling Mr. Rao.

"Libya is against all forms of terrorism, but Libya (is) opposed to the Security Council resolution."

In an unprecedented resolution, all 15 members of the council called on Libya to hand over two suspects allegedly involved in the 1988 bombing of the jumbo jet.

U.N. officials believed it was the first time the council has asked for the surrender of citizens of one country to stand trial in another.

Tripoli has denied state responsibility in the bombing, but said it might try the men in Libya.

Diplomats at the U.N. have said that if Libya does not hand over the accused, the United States, Britain and France intend to press for a resolution within weeks that would impose sanctions against Tripoli.

The sanctions would be limited to denying Libyan aircraft landing rights and barring the sales of aircraft parts but diplomats say passing the resolution could be an uphill fight.

Despite their approval of Tuesday's resolution, China, Morocco, Cape Verde, India, Zimbabwe and others expressed uneasiness about a legal precedent that might be established and called for a peaceful solution.

An Indian source called Mr. Jalloud's stopover a "damage control visit largely aimed at preventing any drastic fallout from the U.N. resolution."

The source said Mr. Jalloud was returning from China where he had made a last-minute bid to persuade Peking to exercise its

veto.

Iran on Wednesday criticised the Security Council resolution. Tehran radio said the resolution reflected U.S. influence and its rejection of Libyan offers of resolving the matter through international arbitration.

"There can be no doubt about the need to combat the phenomenon of terrorism — in all its guises," the radio said in a commentary monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"But... the fight against terrorism should not be selective, international laws should not be ignored and the rights to sovereignty of countries should not be violated under the guise of combating terrorism."

"The shadow of America's policy has been cast over the spirit of resolution 731," Tehran radio said.

Early Western intelligence reports alleged Iran and Syria were also involved in the Pan Am bombing.

Germany intercepts equipment destined for Libya

Germany has intercepted equipment being shipped to Libya from the United States because it could be used in nuclear technology, government spokesman Dieter Vogel said in Wednesday.

He told a news conference the cabinet had approved a special directive enabling officials to seize the goods at Frankfurt airport after receiving a tip-off from an unspecified foreign intelligence agency.

"We were informed that this material was 'dual-use' and could be used for nuclear or other purposes," Mr. Vogel said.

"Dual-use" refers to equipment with both civil and military applications.

Mr. Vogel said the goods had been shipped from the United States via the Netherlands and had then been flown to Frankfurt. He declined to specify what the consignment consisted of, when it had been found or at whose request it had been intercepted.

## Authorities arrest FIS leader

(Continued from page 1) leaders to garner support, demonstrate the party's strength and spread its message.

The prefecture statement said that all sidewalks, streets, squares and other public spaces around mosques "are reserved exclusively for circulation."

The move by the new, military-backed rulers to diminish the influence and power of the Muslim radicals seemed certain to increase tensions.

The Salvation Front on Tuesday called on the army to "rid the people" of the authorities now in power.

Salvation Front candidates won 188 of the 231 seats taken out-right in the opening round of voting Dec. 26 for the national People's Assembly in one of the freest elections ever in the Arab World for a parliament that would wield real authority.

The party was expected to win a huge legislative majority in last Thursday's cancelled run-off vote.

The fundamentalists espouse strict social principles such as a ban on alcohol and restrictions on women's activities, but it is not known how far they would go in implementing such a programme.

Mr. Hachani has urged his followers to avoid provoking the army into a violent crackdown, but a soldier and a policeman have been killed in attacks since the vote was cancelled.

The government has vowed to take all measures necessary to guarantee security.

Bombs have been hurled at a police station, and bands of youths have pelted police with bottles and rocks.

The full Algeria cabinet met Wednesday for the first time since the military forced President Chadli Benjedid to resign Jan. 11 and cancelled run-off elections that would have given the Salvation Front control of parliament.

The ban on public gatherings at mosques had been hinted at Tuesday in a meeting to set the agenda for the cabinet session.

Premier Sidahmed Ghazali and other ministers decided to take measures to banish politics from mosques, government officials announced Wednesday.

"They debated appropriate actions to enforce the strict application of regulations in the mosques, to encourage education and religious practices and to prohibit all partisan activity," a communiqué said.

The ministers adopted unspecified short- and medium-term recommendations, the communiqué said. These would likely include state approval of Muslim clergy.

The ban topped the agenda of the cabinet meeting presided over by Mohammed Boudiaf, leader of the five-man High Security Council that has assumed Mr. Benjedid's duties, official sources said.



Shimon Peres



Yitzhak Rabin

## Heated exchanges at Israeli Labour Party conference

TEL AVIV (AP) — Bitter rivalry between Labour Party leader Shimon Peres and his main rival, former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, produced mudslinging allegations on Tuesday and raised fears about the party's hopes of unseating the ruling Likud bloc.

According to radio and television reports, Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin accused each other of underhandedness in the campaign for party leadership. The Labour primary is scheduled to begin Feb. 19.

Chaim Ramon, Labour Party whip in the parliament, said the behaviour of the two men created a bad public image for the party and could hurt Labour's chances in upcoming national elections.

"It hurts chances to remove the Likud," Mr. Ramon told army radio. "If it continues people will decide to support neither of them."

He added: "We are about to miss a one time chance to remove the Likud."

The Labour Party and other left-wing factions are expected to try to topple Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing coalition in a no confidence vote next

week if the Likud does not agree to call for early elections.

The next elections are scheduled Nov. 3, but Mr. Shamir Sunday lost the support of two right-wing factions. This reduced his support in the 120 seat parliament, (Knesset) to 59 and made him vulnerable for a motion to bring down his government.

The right-wing factions, Moledet and Tehiya, quit over the government's offer of limited autonomy to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The hardliners fear the offer, presented at peace talks in Washington, could lead to an independent Palestinian state.

Mr. Shamir is expected to push for early elections, possibly in June.

At the Labour Party caucus, Mr. Peres reportedly accused Mr. Rabin of being behind a campaign in which stickers were distributed reading "Peres is a four time loser," radio and television reports said.

Mr. Peres was the Labour leader when the party lost to Likud in 1977 for the first time since 1948. The Labour Party also was unable to form governments after the 1980, 1984 and 1988 elections.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 775111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
18:30	Maguy
19:00	News in French
19:15	Cine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Simpsons
21:10	NBA Basketball
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "The Room Upstairs"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:40	Fajr
06:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:47	Dhuhr
14:40	Asr
17:04	Maghreb
18:29	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 627981, 665326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824 and 664932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991	
WEATHER	
It will be partly cloudy and a slight rise in temperature is expected. Winds will be northerly to easterly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	3 / 12
Aqaba	8 / 20
Dead Sea	1 / 13
Jordan Valley	10 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 86 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:	
Dr. Hussein Haddad	731267
Dr. Father Bilbilet	625778
Dr. Hanna Mansour	748364
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul	898140
Fires pharmacy	783336
Pedrows pharmacy	661912
Al Asma pharmacy	637053
Naiwroukh pharmacy	626672





Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi

## Sheikh Tamimi receives Palestinian pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Wednesday received at the ministry a delegation representing Palestinians who have just come back from Mecca where they performed the minor pilgrimage.

Addressing the delegation, Sheikh Tamimi said the original link between Jordanians and Palestinians is Islam, which is the strongest link between a man and his brother. He voiced his ministry's readiness to make available the necessary facilities to enable Palestinians living in the Arab territories occupied to perform pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage every year.

He pointed out that the ministry was doing its best to avoid any shortcomings experienced in the pilgrimage season.

The delegation members voiced their appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for their efforts to facilitate their performance of the pilgrimage. They added that their visit to the holy places in Saudi Arabia was a dream come true thanks to the directives of King Hussein.

They praised the level of service offered to them and the sincere efforts made by the ministry to ensure means of comfort for them.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's acting secretary general and senior ministry officials.

## MADRE officials return from Iraq, call for an end to sanctions

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Economic sanctions which have starved millions of people in Iraq will not bring nations that are in conflict closer to peaceful understanding, officials from an American-based humanitarian organisation said Tuesday.

Eight women from MADRE, Spanish for mother, arrived in Amman from Baghdad Tuesday morning. Officials from the organisation headed for Iraq last week with 10 tonnes of milk, vitamins and antibiotics in what was called an emergency campaign.

"What we saw was an extraordinary and devastating level of poverty and need, far greater than when I visited Iraq last July," said Vivian Stromberg, executive director of MADRE. "It is clear as crystal that the sanctions are hurting the civilian population — this will not bring nations in conflict closer to a peaceful understanding."

During their five-day visit, MADRE officials met with hospital staff, members of the women's federation, the Iraqi minister of health, officials from the international and Iraqi Red

Crescent Society as well as university students.

According to Ms. Stromberg, the Iraqi people and government officials expressed the hope that the American group would take back the message that the sanctions must be lifted, that the sanctions are hurting children and families and that governments must negotiate to solve their conflicts.

"What can thousands and millions of starved children do to make this world more humane?" Ms. Stromberg asked.

Tareq Aziz, deputy chairman of the Iraqi Council of Ministers, said in a meeting with MADRE officials that "the economic embargo imposed on Iraq for over a year and a half will not continue forever because it has become a political and moral burden on the countries that still hang on to this embargo, just as it is a financial burden on the people of Iraq."

Mr. Aziz also talked about an upcoming meeting with the U.N. Security Council at the end of next month to discuss the issue of sanctions.

"We will hold on to our refusing stand," Mr. Aziz was quoted as saying. "We will not accept (the conditions) until the Security

Council disregards the conditions which interfere with our sovereignty and which hinders the provision of our basic needs."

A report compiled by the International Commission of Public Health, which visited Iraq last October, found that Iraq's child mortality rate has tripled since the end of the war and 100,000 children have died so far. Additionally, more than 900,000 children under the age of five are malnourished and around 29 per cent are considered significantly malnourished, the report said.

Back in Jordan, Ms. Stromberg said she was "horrified that our government will starve children in our name. If we do not act soon, it will be too late to save the children of our international family."

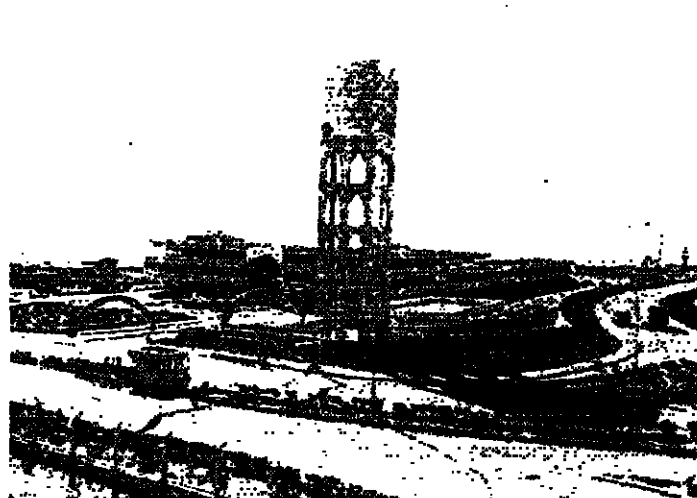
In view of Iraq's desperate situation, Ms. Stromberg said that the group will "continue to try to share this information, in spite of the fact that most of the media has not been cooperative," she said. "It seems to me that there is not only a food and medicine blockade, but also an information blockade."

Lina Nabil contributed to this article.

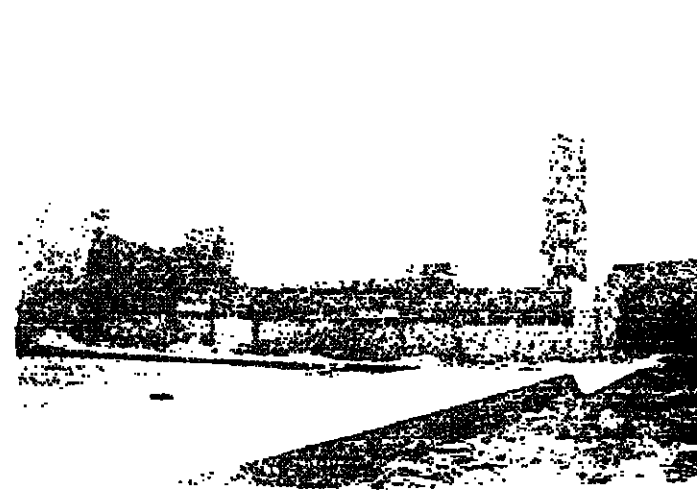


MILITARY REVIEW — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visited the Armed Forces General Command where he met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and discussed with him

issues of concern to the Armed Forces. Part of the meeting was attended by the chief of staff-land forces, the chief of staff-air force, a number of assistant chiefs of staff, the inspector general and commanders of the armed forces formations.



The Sahab Industrial City near Amman (left) and the Al Hassan Industrial City (right) attracted 60 industrial investment projects



in 1991 with JD 25 million in investments. As a result, the Sahab Industrial City is again being expanded (File photo)

## JIEC expanding Sahab, Al Hassan industrial cities, official says

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 60 industrial investment projects were established in 1991 in the Sahab Industrial City near Amman and the Al Hassan Industrial City near Irbid with overall capital amounting to JD 25 million, according to an announcement Wednesday by Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Director Faysal Suheimat.

The past year witnessed the creation of 42 new projects in Sahab with JD 20 million capital while the rest were established in Irbid, he said.

The investments included six industrial engineering projects, like television assembly plants, in cooperation with a Singapore-based Indus Firm. It also in-

cluded six plastic and rubber industries, six industrial chemical industries — including fertilisers and detergents — six textile plants, three wood furniture industries, two paper and cardboard plants, two leather and one building construction equipment firm.

Dr. Suheimat noted that the new industrial businesses established in 1991 have swallowed up all the plots of land at the Sahab City, prompting the JIEC to embark on a third expansion project which entails developing 680 dunums for infrastructure for industrial businesses to be established within the Sahab zone.

Dr. Suheimat said his department was building roads, laying

networks of water, electricity, telephone and other basic services for more plants and factories and will be building factories on a 22,000 square metres area.

Already several companies have leased land in the new expansion stage and the tender for the civil works on this land will be announced in the upcoming week, said Dr. Suheimat. He said that civil works could be ready and the factory buildings completed by July.

With regard to the Al Hassan Industrial City near Irbid, Dr. Suheimat noted that a total of 18 new industrial plants were established in 1991, creating jobs for 230 persons. These industries, he

said, included plants for building gas ranges, industrial rayons, detergents and pesticides.

At present, the Sahab Industrial City has 232 factories, of which 190 have already started production with sales going to Arab, European and African countries as well as to Latin America, the U.S., Canada and Russia.

The Al Hassan Industrial City, he said, has 22 factories employing 400 workers with prospects for expansion.

Dr. Suheimat said that the JIEC is currently contemplating setting up industrial cities in Zarqa, Salt and Aqaba to cope with the increased demand on factories.

## Preparations for Jordanian participation in Seville International Expo reviewed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national Jordanian Committee on the Seville International Exposition 1992 held its first meeting and reviewed preparations for Jordan's participation in the coming event, displaying aspects of the Kingdom's cultural, informational, touristic and scientific achievements.

The committee, which was set up by a government decision, is chaired by Dr. Mazen Al Armouti, advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. It groups a large number of officials specialising in culture, information and tourism.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Armouti said that by participating in the Seville Expo, which is due to begin in April, in the Spanish city, Jordan aims to reflect its culture over the ages, bolster ties of understanding and promote cultural and informational exchanges with other nations of the world.

In addition, Jordan hopes to help market its touristic and archaeological treasures through interacting with the other cultures and through its presence at the

Seville expo, said Dr. Armouti. He said the expo is indeed a golden opportunity to present Arab and Jordanian culture to the world.

Jordan displayed its keen interest in participating in this international event when Prince Hassan laid the foundation stone for the Jordanian wing at the Seville Expo site in July 1990, Dr. Armouti noted.

Dr. Armouti said Jordan will hold two week-long cultural events, one in May and the other in September, during which it will present folkloric performances, national dancing and music presented with the help of the Jordanian Armed Forces Brass Bands, as well as seminars and exhibitions on various aspects of Jordanian art.

The Jordanians will distribute one million pamphlets with information about the Kingdom's cultural, informational, touristic, economic and other activities as well as stamps, postcards and samples of the salt of the Dead Sea and fertilisers.

The Jordanian wing, he said, will display a collection of very

precious artifacts found in the Kingdom dating back to the Umayyad period as well as antiquities depicting the Nabatean city of Petra, mosaics from Madaba, traditional building styles like that found in Salt and aspects of economic, cultural and social life of present-day Jordan.

According to Dr. Armouti, a total of 113 nations, including 14 from the Arab World, will take part in the Seville International Expo, which will last for about six months. He said that nearly 20 million visitors are expected by the Spanish organisers to converge on the city during the expo.

The Seville Expo, Dr. Armouti noted, will be the largest ever international gathering, coinciding with the 1992 Olympiad, which will be held this year in Barcelona, another Spanish city. Also, the event coincides with the proclamation of united Europe and Madrid as the cultural capital of the united nations of Europe.

Dr. Armouti said many of the events at the Seville International Expo 1992 will be relayed through satellite to many nations on earth.

## House refers proposals to administrative, financial committees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Wednesday during which it listened to the higher education minister's reply to a question put forward to him by Deputy Hamzeh Mansour on the creation of a general federation for Jordanian students.

In his reply, the minister said the creation of a federation needs a legislative framework and that if it was not within ministry's prerogative to exact such legislation. The House referred a draft law on endorsing a loan agreement between the Jordanian and French governments for the year 1992 to the Financial Committee for consideration and action. The House also referred a number of proposals made by some deputies to its Administrative Committee.

The proposals include the establishment of dams, channeling investments to the southern region, stopping the issuance of new licences for industries within Amman municipality borders. Other proposals called for transferring the headquarters of major companies such as the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company to the companies' sites in the south of Jordan.

Two other suggestions called for constructing a new road linking Amman directly with Karak.

## RSS launches project to manufacture greenhouse covers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Mechanical Design and Technology Centre has started a project designed to develop the technology of manufacturing greenhouse covers utilising discarded polyethylene films.

The project, which will be financed by the International Development and Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), will introduce to local industry a new manufacturing technique of agricultural films, i.e. co-extrusion of multilayer films, according to a

statement.

As part of the project, a pilot plant consisting of a two-layer film production line with a capacity of 5 kg/hour will be established. It is an exact scaled-down version of a corresponding full-scale machine which enables the research team to closely estimate the technical and economic feasibility of the process, the statement said.

This project, which will help transfer the developed know-how to plastic recyclers and converters in Jordan and the neighbouring Arab countries, will be carried

out in cooperation with the Chemical Engineering Department of McGill University.

## Katalin Pitti — Hungarian beauty and elegance through music

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory (NMC) Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Hungarian embassy in Jordan are presenting an exceptional performance offering a beautiful blend of music, singing and acting on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) at 8 p.m.

From the country of Franz Liszt and Bela Bartok comes Katalin Pitti, Lilla Mikos and Ani Szabo, bringing to Jordan all the charm of a country which already has given such great music to the world. Attractively entitled "A Night in Budapest," the show consists of two parts: a tour in Budapest through Hungarian popular and folk songs as well as opera arias, and a "Life of Maria Callas — Victim or Tigress," the famous diva.

Ms. Pitti is Hungary's first opera singer and has appeared in many well known operas like the Traviata, Aida and less known Hungarian operas. Asked by the Jordan Times what was her favourite, she replied: "Always the one I am working on at a given moment..."

Lilla Mikos is an actor and the director, technically assisted by her husband Peter, Gal, of the "Korona Podium" a theatre in Budapest which she likes to describe as a "literary expresso."

Ms. Mikos explained that in the past 13 years, they have given the impressive number of six thousand such performances in several languages covering 30 countries from



Katalin Pitti

Iraq to the USA. The artists are accompanied on the piano by Ani Szabo.

Ms. Mikos' theatre is meant as an art workshop, with a unique charter of "intimacy... a literary forum. The bigger the metro stations, the workrooms, the stadiums become, the more people long for intimacy," she explained.

While Thursday's performance at the RCC doesn't pretend — and doesn't want — to be a full opera, Katalin Pitti hopes to be back to Jordan one day with a full scale opera. She already has confirmed plans to present La Traviata and Aida — Verdi's well known operas — in Egypt very soon.

With opera star singer Katalin Pitti, A Night in Budapest should make the difference in the current series of instrumental recitals and concerts that music lovers in Amman are being treated to this season.

## Minister tours Tafleh hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Aref Bataineh visited Wednesday the two state hospitals in Tafleh and several health centres in the Tafleh Governorate.

Dr. Bataineh said the ministry gives due attention to health centres and is always seeking to provide them with specialised doctors, qualified medical staffs as well as modern equipment to

enable them to provide services to citizens.

The ministry, he said, will work on equipping the new hospital in Tafleh and provide it with the needed medical equipment to make it ready to receive patients by the beginning of the coming year.

Dr. Bataineh met with Tafleh Governor Khalid Al Bawaliz.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sudanese envoy arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An envoy of Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir arrived in Amman Wednesday on a short visit to the Kingdom during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the Sudanese leader. The envoy, Mahdi Ibrahim Mohammad, said in a statement at Queen Alia Airport that the message deals with the latest developments in the region and the challenges facing the Arab Nation. The visit, he said, comes within the framework of continued consultations between Jordan and Sudan and to exchange points of view towards regional and international developments.

#### Landslides closes road

AMMAN (Petra) — Adasiya Naour Road, near Turki is completely closed for traffic because of landslides in the area, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). The PSD called on motorists heading for the Jordan Valley to use the Salt-Wadi Shueib or Salt-Arda roads.

#### Official calls on returnees to pay customs on cars

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal Wednesday said that the deadline for returnees to pay customs duties on their cars carrying temporary admission plates is February 29. There has been no change whatsoever on this subject, he said. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Jamal said the Customs Department has set clear and specific instructions for paying customs duties on the returnees' cars and replacing the black plates by white ones. The instructions stipulated that owners of such cars should be Jordanian nationals and were residents of Kuwait before Aug. 2, 1990. It further provided that cars should have entered Jordan prior to Oct. 15, 1990 and were registered in their names upon entry into the country. He noted that the department has made the necessary facilities to clear these cars through Kuwaimeh Customs Centre, where they will be examined and assessed for the purpose of collecting duties. He added that 2,400 cars out of 16,126 cars have now been cleared from customs and that 650 cars were exported.

#### Pilgrimage of Palestinian labourers discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Committee of the General Union of the Labourers of Palestine held a meeting in Amman Wednesday. The committee discussed reports by its chapters in Kuwait, Gaza, Iraq, Egypt and Western Europe on problems facing Palestinian labourers. Secretary General of the Federation Haidar Ibrahim said the meeting recommended holding contacts with the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), the International Federation of Arab Labour Unions and Arab Labour Federations to solve problems related to the movement of Palestinian labourers and providing jobs for Palestinian workers, particularly those carrying Palestinian passes.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- Art exhibition by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan and Italian ambassador to Jordan Franco de Courten at Abdal Hameed Shounan Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Exhibition of the activities of the Goethe Institute in Amman at the Institute, Jabal Amman.
- Plastic art exhibition by Ahmad Hanauda and Imad Matalqa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Alla Shanti Amoura at Alla Art Gallery — opening ceremony at 5:30 p.m.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Differences less on substance

THE PROBLEMS of the Middle East, even in their simplest form, are so complex that it is difficult for some governments in the region to decide whether the multilateral peace talks should run parallel to the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations or should be held only when the latter have achieved certain progress. This issue seems to have developed into a point of contention between us and the Syrians. While the Palestinians worry about their representation at the multilaterals, the Israelis, who favour piecemeal solutions, are left in a more comfortable position. They would not mind seeing the Arabs "sabotage" the Moscow gathering, Syria and Jordan have different, but not necessarily contradictory, points of view. The Syrians fear normalisation of relations with Israel through the multilateral talks before achieving progress on the bilateral level would hinder the prospect of a comprehensive solution based on the exchange of land for peace. We are aware of the Syrian argument but think at the same time that normalising relations with Israel is not the aim of the Moscow conference. In fact some of us hope that through the Moscow multilaterals we could normalise with our fellow Arabs in the Gulf. Our differences then may be explained differently.

Jordan, unlike Syria, did not take the side of the anti-Iraq camp during the Gulf war, and we are being punished for our neutral stance. Kuwait has expelled 300,000 Jordanian citizens, many of whom are of Palestinian origin. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council, save for Oman, have taken a hostile stand towards Jordan, freezing political relations, cutting vital aid and lowering trade and passenger levels. Syria meanwhile reported a \$1.5 billion trade surplus believed by the World Bank to equal Arab grants in 1991.

While Syria might have its own calculations on the multilaterals' disarmament track, Jordan with its modest army and sharing the longest confrontation line with Israel favours reductions in the Israeli arsenal, especially after the collapse of the old Arab order and the joint Arab defence pact. On the third component of the regional talks, namely the refugees, Syria has no big problem. It hosts barely 300,000. Jordan, on the other hand, has to struggle to accommodate the same number of people, who returned in one batch in less than one year.

On water, Jordan's and Syria's circumstances are also different. While Syria has many rivers running through it, Jordan is experiencing water shortages every summer. Most of the Kingdom's water rights are being swallowed up by the Israelis. Thus Jordan has a greater interest in discussing the sharing of the region's water resources on the basis of full rights for each state. Jordanian and Syrian circumstances are somewhat different. But instead of disagreeing on whether or not to attend the Moscow talks, the two countries, and indeed the rest of the other Arab parties, should be coordinating their positions on the contents of the talks and how to achieve maximum gains from them. It is indeed not in the Arabs' interest to negotiate with Israel as four or more separate parties. It weakens our position and strengthens Israel's. Unless we Arabs talk frankly among ourselves, coordinate our positions, and confront Israel as one, we stand to lose, not only in the multilateral regional talks in Moscow, but also in the other battles where we are facing our enemy.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said that the Arabs do not realise what Washington wants from them by going to Moscow for the multinational talks. Indeed we realise what the Israelis want and demand, but Washington's stand is a mystery for the Arabs who are awaiting from the U.S. to implement the international legitimacy and force Israel to carry out U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the paper said. What Israel wants from the Arabs is that they comply with the Jewish state's demands of capitulation without demanding the return of one inch of the Arab land in Palestine, said the paper. It said that Israel expects the Arabs to go to Moscow and discuss regional issues as if the bilateral talks had ended successfully and everything was settled. The paper said that the Israelis are adamant in their demand that the Arabs forget about their lost land history and look forward towards fruitful cooperation with Israel while it continues to occupy Arab territories. The Arabs see no chance of convincing the Israelis, through dialogue, to give up usurped territory so that real peace, security and stability can be restored, the paper added. The Arabs are expecting from the United States to uphold its principles and to help implement U.N. resolutions so that this region can see the end of injustice caused by historic events before they can look forward to fruitful cooperation with Israel, the paper said. The paper said that the Arabs can by no means sign treaties or documents designed to cancel their rights and forfeit their ownership of land or the freedom of the Palestinian people.

Washington, London and Paris decided that the U.N. Security Council should issue a resolution calling on Libya to officially discontinue its involvement in the Pan Am aircraft crash in Scotland in 1988, and that the Libyans should hand over the Libyan intelligence agents allegedly involved in the crash, the council is certain to oblige, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. If Libya rejected the council resolution, the three capitals would see to it that a second resolution is issued imposing sanctions on Libya for not complying with the desires of the Western nations, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said this could pave the way for French, U.S. and British naval vessels to lay a blockade on Libya. The writer said that the three Western nations would find in the Arab countries and in the Islamic nations a staunch supporter for their stand against Libya, simply because these Arabs and Muslims claim that they support the international legitimacy, exactly as it happened with the case of Iraq following its occupation of Kuwait. The writer said this is not a joke at all but it is rather something that could happen at any moment as long as there are Arabs that are not only willing to accept the so-called international legitimacy, but also help the Western nations achieve their end.

## Larceny by the book

### Israel's strategies of land confiscation in the occupied territories

The following article is reprinted from Challenge, a magazine of the Israeli left.

SINCE Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, it has been deliberate Israeli policy to confiscate land and water resources in those areas. More than 60 per cent of the West Bank and 45 per cent of the Gaza Strip have been closed to Palestinian farmers or directly confiscated, and more than 80 per cent of their water resources have been seized. Jerusalem was the area hardest hit by this policy. From the beginning, it was clear that the state of Israel intended to annex East Jerusalem. To achieve that purpose, many Arab villages surrounding Jerusalem were included within the city limits, such as the villages of Um Tuba, Sur Baher, Silwan, Shuafat, Beit Hanina and some areas of Al Ram, Kalandia and Bir Nabala. To increase the number of Jewish residents of the city and change its demographic nature, settlements were built in East Jerusalem and government offices were moved there to give it official status. Jerusalem was not an exception: Most of the occupied territories fell victim to similar policies, especially areas close to the Green Line and the Gaza Strip, where land is scarce.

The post-Gulf war period has witnessed an acceleration in Israel's settlement policy. The government apparently feels the need to build and expand settlements in order to absorb new immigrants from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. It also sees the settlements as a way to improve its position in any future negotiations, especially since international attention has shifted to this area and into finding an end to the Israeli-Arab conflict after the war. The rightist tendencies of the Israeli public, which are clear from the number of parliament seats won by the right in the last elections, strengthen the position of the Shamir government and its policy of not giving up an inch of the occupied territories. This was clear from the statements by Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy regarding their opposition to the principle of trading land for peace.

The Israeli occupation author-

ities use many excuses to justify the confiscation of land for settlements and other purposes. These include the following:

1. Land claimed to be government owned: Large parts of the occupied territories are not registered in their owners' names at the Israeli land registration offices, although ownership of the land is known and documented by villagers. This is because during Turkish and British rule in Palestine, landowners were discouraged from registering their land because land taxes were so high that the returns from the land would cover only a small portion of them. After 1948, the Jordanian government started registering land and giving it back to its owners, but it was a slow process, so that when the occupation began large areas of the West Bank remained unregistered. The Israeli government immediately stopped registration procedures and did not recognise any registration done after June 1967. All land that had not been registered by that date was considered government-owned land.

2. Unused non-agricultural land: Israeli authorities consider any land that is not planted and that lies outside city or village limits to be unused land which the government has the right to confiscate and use as it sees fit. Land planted with seasonal crops like wheat and fodder has been confiscated under this law. The government takes aerial photographs of the land when the season is over, then uses the photographs in court as evidence that the land is "unused." The law has also been used for land planted with trees, as in the 300 dunums confiscated from Bidya village on June 3, 1990, which contained fruit and olive trees.

3. Confiscation for general purposes: The Israeli authorities confiscate land in order to build roads, playgrounds, stadiums and parks. These confiscations are not intended to serve the Palestinian community, but to fulfill the goal of providing all types of facilities to the settler community. In some cases, the authorities claim that a confiscation is being carried out on these grounds and then use the land for something totally different. This was the

case with the confiscation without prior notice of 4,800 dunums from the villages of Shuafat and Beit Hanina, in the Jerusalem area. When the owners complained to the court, they were informed that their land was needed to build a sports stadium and a park. The land was subsequently used to build a new settlement of 2,200 homes to absorb Orthodox Jews from Canada.

The Israeli High Court rejects the appeal, claiming that the issue had been taken care of already.

4. Confiscation for military purposes: The authorities may claim that land is needed for military use, such as for training grounds or for its strategic location. In these cases, no justification is required. Much farm and grazing land has been confiscated under this pretext, especially in the Jordan Valley near Jericho (Al Oja, Faysal and Jiftik villages) and in the Bethlehem and Hebron areas (Al Rashayda and Bani Na'im villages).

5. Forgery and false land deeds: A network of land trades suspected of having connections to the authorities has been involved in selling large areas of land to Israeli companies and Israeli settlers using forged deeds. The best example of this is the takeover of St. John's, the Greek Orthodox convent in East Jerusalem, which is still under consideration by the Israeli High Court with little chance of a decision to the benefit of the rightful owners. There is also Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's house in the old city of Jerusalem, which was bought from someone other than the true owners, the Al Khalidi family. Add to these examples many other cases of land taken through this means with the knowledge of the authorities.

6. Confiscation as collective punishment: This method has been used in the aftermath of armed attacks or the throwing of stones or Molotov cocktails at the army, especially during the intifada. Lands are confiscated, trees uprooted and fences erected to prevent owners from reaching the land or looking after crops, as punishment for things they haven't done. This contravenes all forms of humanitarian and international law, particularly the

Fourth Geneva Convention's provisions on the treatment of civilians under occupation.

7. Confiscation by settlers: Settlers under the protection of the army have launched their own campaigns of land confiscation in order to expand existing settlements and build new ones. This occurred on April 2 in Deir Istia village, in the Nablus area, and in early May in Manouh mountain, in the Hebron area, where the Kach and Gush Emunim movements confiscated hundreds of dunums and annexed them to Kiryat Arba settlements.

Despite the variety of pretexts, the mechanism for land confiscation by the authorities generally follows the same pattern. The authorities begin by surveying the land intended for confiscation and preparing the technical requirements of the operation. An announcement then appears in the newspapers stating that the authorities are confiscating a specific piece of land, and giving its owners 40 days to file objections and take the case to the High Court. This period is usually insufficient, given restrictions such as long-term curfews, closures of the occupied territories, and the ban on holders of West Bank and Gaza Strip identity cards entering East Jerusalem or Israel, all of which make it difficult for landowners to follow court procedures.

In a recent case, the secretary of the High Court refused to receive the owners' appeal on the grounds that their papers were insufficient. In other cases, the secretary has postponed receiving appeals until the 40-day period expired. Of the few appeals that do make it to court, the overwhelming majority are rejected and the court rules in favour of the confiscation, often disregarding valid proofs of ownership supplied by the rightful owners.

The political aspect of the land confiscation is the most dangerous. More than 100,000 Israelis live in settlements built on large areas of the occupied territories that have been confiscated. Sharon is planning to settle another 100,000 in the occupied territories and to increase the settler population of East Jerusalem to 1 million; current plans are for

24,000 housing units in the West Bank and 36,000 in the Jerusalem area. This is all part of a plan to create a new status quo in which it will be difficult if not impossible to achieve a political solution to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, thereby undermining all international efforts in this direction. In May, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker acknowledged that the most difficult obstacle he faces in his visits to the Middle East is Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land, which he said was the most sensitive issue for the Palestinians.

Demographically, the Palestinian population in the occupied territories is increasing at the very high rate of 3.5 per cent, meaning that the current population of 1.5 million will soon double, bringing with it an urgent need to expand cities and villages. Under the present situation of land confiscation and the barriers to obtaining building permits, it will be hard to meet this need, especially in Jerusalem and Gaza City, where the area left for expansion is almost zero. In Jerusalem, the annual municipal tax on buildings (arona) has caused rents to skyrocket, sometimes to more than 60 per cent of net income, and has led many young families to move to other areas, especially Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, considered the most densely populated area in the world, the main problem is overcrowding. About 45 per cent of the total area of 357,000 dunums has been confiscated, leaving 190,000 dunums to meet the housing, agriculture and infrastructure needs of the 600,000 residents.

Confiscation of land and water has also affected the Palestinian economy, especially its backbone, the agricultural sector. Agriculture, which used to make up 35 per cent of the GNP of the occupied territories, has suffered during the intifada. The closure of the Israeli labour market to Palestinian workers after the Gulf war left the agricultural sector with the additional burden of absorbing the large number of unemployed.

The effects of land confiscation on livestock and crops have been severe. Prior to 1967, West Bank

farmers owned over 500,000 head of livestock (sheep, goats and cows) which relied for subsistence on some 200,000 dunums of pasture land as well as local fodder crops, in which the West Bank was self-sufficient. Israeli land seizure policies dramatically decreased the amount of land used for these purposes, forcing farmers to rely on expensive imported fodder. Raising animals became a losing proposition financially, which led to a decrease in numbers of livestock. Villagers from Al Rashayda, for example, used to rely on pasture land in surrounding hills to provide for their 20,000 sheep — until the authorities closed about 50,000 dunums of the area for the military reasons and prohibited farmers from using them. The villagers now feed their sheep fodder, and the operation is no longer profitable.

The occupied territories experienced a similar decline in self-sufficiency with respect to fruits, vegetables and wheat — strategically the most essential crops. Now they depend largely on imports from the Israeli market, with the exception of some vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers and citrus. The availability of these crops is not due to surplus production, but to the non-existence of food processing industries in the occupied territories, due to obstacles imposed by the authorities. If this industry existed, we would need to increase agricultural land.

It is important to note that 80 per cent of water resources in the occupied territories are under Israeli control. The authorities have not permitted Palestinians to drill even one well in these areas since 1967, so it is not surprising that 96 per cent of agricultural land in the West Bank and 50 per cent in the Gaza Strip depends only on rain water for irrigation. It is well known that land cultivated in this way is far less productive than irrigated land, so that there is pressure to expand the area of agricultural land to make up the difference. But Israel's policies of land and water confiscation make meeting this need something closer to a dream than to reality.

## Loan guarantees for Israel can entrap Democratic candidate in 1992

By George Moses

IT'S a political axiom that Americans do not base their votes on foreign policy issues. U.S. guarantees of \$10 billion in Israeli loans could prove to be an exception, however, in the congressional and presidential campaigns of 1992.

In September, when Israel called it "absorption aid," President Bush and most Congress members committed themselves to help resettle Soviet Jews in Israel. To cement a further commitment to \$2 billion in guarantees for each of the next five years, the strategy of Israel's friends in Congress was to move for quick approval before opponents could marshal significant resistance.

Unfortunately for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), President George Bush "went public" in requesting a 120-day delay in congressional action on the request in order to link it to the peace process. During the first days of that delay, the truth about the money's intended use leaked out. A member of the Knesset told the public that Israel was budgeting \$2 billion during the coming year for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, a statement confirmed by Israel's central bank.

Thus it became clear that what Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government has in mind when it talks about "absorption aid" is aid for absorption of more Palestinian land. This revelation came hard on the heels of Mr. Shamir's statement that "the Green Line between Israel proper and the occupied territories no longer exists." Although there was little press reaction to these facts, private congressional reaction was swift and negative.

Since then, a number of congressmen have quietly made clear that previous commitments they may have made to support "absorption aid" do not necessarily extend to a commitment to support the \$10 billion package. The White House, repeatedly and very publicly, is saying the same thing. Taken together, these factors give the president latitude to cut the Israeli request



down to much more modest scale in January. He has a number of reasons to do so.

Even among potential foreign aid recipients, friction between the haves and have-nots is growing. Candidates and the public have heard the pleas for economic help from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The scale of the help being asked has caused a serious political panic, of which the plan to take \$1 billion from the defence budget for aid to the Soviet Union was the first casualty. The amounts of money being discussed to help these obviously needy claimants are multiples of the present foreign aid budget, but American help on that scale would be swimming against the anti-foreign aid public opinion tide. On the other hand, millions of Americans with ethnic roots in Eastern Europe do not want to hear that nothing can be done. More important elements in both administration and congressional calculations are the public budget disasters proliferating throughout America. Every day newspapers across the country report reductions in school

spending, police layoffs, deferred maintenance on roads and bridges and limitations on other municipal services. Several cities have gone so far as to put themselves into receivership. The city of Philadelphia has a credit rating so bad that it was recently forced to borrow money at an interest rate of 27 per cent.

Thus characterisation of the loan guarantees as glaring misallocation of resources in the face of unmet domestic requirements fall on fertile ground. Prompted in part by financing of the Budget Priorities Project, Rep. James Traficant has introduced a resolution to prohibit the U.S. government from guaranteeing loans to foreign borrowers unless it also guarantees the borrowing of all American states and cities. Such a resolution, unimaginable just six months ago, now presents a serious obstacle to AIPAC's campaign to slip the guarantees through Congress without debate and without an up or down vote if possible.

They way the fight on loan guarantees plays out will depend on the ability of opponents of the

loan guarantees to keep that subject high on the political agenda. More and more political groups have joined this fight and, so long as the White House continues to provide leadership on the subject, the effect on Congress will be substantial.

The White House has a strong political incentive to keep its eye on proposals of the guarantees. If the ghost of Lee Atwater had come back to lay a political trap for Republicans to spring on Democrats it could not have been more artfully crafted. The very essence of the trap is the Democrats' own dilemma.

As things now stand, what underpins public support for President George Bush is his handling of American foreign policy. (Mario Cuomo has described Mr. Bush's platform as consisting entirely of the statement "I won the war and the other guy's a jerk.") Obviously, Democratic strategy is to shift the debate to Mr. Bush's domestic policy agenda, on which they believe he is vulnerable. Polls tend to bear them out. As discussion of the recession expands,

Mr. Bush's extraordinary high approval ratings of last spring and summer decline.

**Democrats' dilemma**  
As a result of these decisions by Democratic strategists, the theme of individual Democratic presidential campaigns is that America should see to the needs of its own citizens before sending more aid abroad. Israel's request for an additional \$10 billion in aid could not come into a worse political setting for such presidential candidates as Tom Harkin, Douglas Wilder and Mario Cuomo. They will have to reconcile their heavy dependence on the Israel lobby for campaign funding, along with their on-the-record support for a major increase in aid to Israel, with their own rhetoric on the need to do more at home while reducing the deficit and not raising taxes.

That explanation had better be good. The message for next November's election seems crystal clear today: voters across the country are mad as hell and they aren't going to take it anymore. There are free "Thornburgh for Senator" buttons available for anyone who doesn't believe this is

true. By fighting a Bush recommendation for an "absorption aid" package substantially smaller than \$10 billion, Democratic candidates elevate a major foreign policy issue that has the capacity to draw public attention away from domestic problems. Debate on the guarantees will only highlight the obvious inconsistencies of Democratic candidates who demand that more be done for Americans while also supporting more foreign aid for Israel, and a particularly recalcitrant Israeli government, during a domestic budget crisis. The greater the public awareness of this conflict, the more damage it poses for Democrats running for office next November. And the louder candidates protest, the tighter the political bind.

For Americans opposed to the guarantees, the question to candidates is easy: are you for apartments in the West Bank or apartments on the West Side? George Moses is a legislative and economic consultant based in Washington DC. The article is reprinted from the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

## LETTERS

### Deported but alive

To the Editor:

Greetings and thank you for printing my short article on Jan. 21, 1992 about Albert Glock. However, I want to point out that, at least, up till the writing of the article, I was alive and not a "deported" person, but rather a "deported" one. After reading the article, few people called and checked on my state of affairs and I assured them that being "deported" was an error of the Jordan Times and not yet a wish of God. Praise the Almighty!

Hanna Nasir,  
Amman, Jordan

The Jordan Times apologises for the proofreading error that appeared in the Editor's Note accompanying Dr. Nasir's article yesterday, and wishes the deported president of Birzeit University a happy and long life — The Editor.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unedited manuscripts.



## Cairo Film Festival wins its stars

By Katia Sabat

CAIRO — The year 1991 has many claims to fame, but for movie-makers in the developing world it marks a major accomplishment: For its 15th anniversary, the Cairo Film Festival held in December was officially put on the map of major international cinematographic events. While the two-week-long festival has been growing in importance since it was created in 1976, this year it was consecrated by the International Federation of Producers. It is now a competitive event with prizes in five categories. Gold

and Silver Pyramids are awarded for the best film, best female and best male actor, best film by a young director and a special jury prize. The 1991 festival showcased 200 movies from over 30 countries.

Eighteen film competed on the official list, and the Gold Pyramid went to the American picture *Object of Beauty* by a young director, Michael Lindsay Hogg. The silver Pyramid was awarded to the Egyptian film *The Search of Sayed Marzouk*, directed by Dawud Abdul Sayed, while Czechoslovak directors Josef

Heriban and Josef Slovák won the Best First Work prize for their film *The Island Of The Long Ears*. The Best Actor Award went to Portugal's Joaquim De Almeida for his role in *Portrait Of A Family* and Germany's Christina Choh was named Best Actress for her role in *Suspicion*. A special mention went to the Polish film *Maidens and Widows* by Janusz Zaorski.

To match the festival's official entry onto the international film scene, organizers chose as president of the jury a veteran of international

movie competitions, Italian critic, journalist and writer Guglielmo Biraghi. At 65, Biraghi admits that he took an unusual road to become one of the movie world's most respected authorities. He graduated in chemistry at Rome University, but his real ambition was to be a composer, so he went on to study music. After struggling for a few years Mr. Biraghi changed worlds again and joined one of Italy's leading dailies *Il Messaggero*.

"I was the only person who went around with books under his arm," he recalls

with a laugh, "so I was assigned to the movie department. When the resident cinema critic died, I was given the post and remained the *Messaggero's* cinema critic between 1953 and 1986." Mr. Biraghi was then appointed director of the Venice film festival.

This slim, elegant man who speaks several languages also directed the Taormina (Sicily) Festival between 1971 and 1986. And he is permanent president of the Chicago Film Festival. He has sat on the jury of countless international festivals, from Cannes to

Manila and Berlin to Los Angeles.

Festivals, he says, have become an intrinsically important part of the movie industry: "Festivals are a meeting point and a way of getting good films out into the open. When people talk about a 'festival film,' the term can go both ways — good or bad. Some people think of festival movies as heavy, boring and difficult, but luckily to most people, 'festival film' is synonymous with 'good film.' There is no fixed criteria for judging what makes a good movie, he adds. A 'good film' — that is to say one that has a chance of winning a prize in an international festival, has got to be not only aesthetically pleasing while carrying a certain impact, but most of all 'intelligent.' One of the keys is that the jury, and most important its president should approach competing films without preconceptions, bias or ideological reservations.

"Whenever it has been within my power, I have always tried to ensure that the jury is not influenced by any considerations other than the artistic and cultural value of a piece," Mr. Biraghi notes. "Some jury members sometimes try to fight for a given movie for ideological reasons, but thankfully, this has become unusual and today, films are mostly judged for their intrinsic qualities." Commenting on the Arab cinema, he explains that better knowledge of Arab films could help enhance awareness of the Arab people, their culture and their concerns which are often ignored by the Western media. As one of few Europeans with an extensive knowledge of the Arab cinema, Mr. Biraghi has done his part to discard stereotypes. "When I was director of the (Venice) festival, I tried very hard to show the public a genuine picture of the Arab World through its cinema. I don't know whether I succeeded or not, but all I can say is that I hope I have contributed to providing a better understanding."

The Arab cinema, he says, still has a long way to go before it can reach an international audience for two



Jury president at the recent Cairo Film Festival, Guglielmo Biraghi discusses the merits of such events.

reasons: "The first is that films that travel from one festival to another and end up being shown to a very wide audience with all the commercial consequences that this implies, are films that are managed and promoted worldwide by international organisations. The other, no less important factor, is language: Films in English are by far the most favoured because they can reach the widest audience. For Arab movies, like films in Italian, German and Russian, language is a handicap. This has in fact led to some regrettable aberrations with, for example, Italian-French-Russian coproductions coming out in English — they end up losing their originality."

Film festivals have proliferated in recent years because they attract visitors and prestige to a town, Mr. Biraghi says: "Almost any small town in Italy, France or elsewhere aspires to hosting a festival. 'Almost every genre is covered: Comedies, action picture, horror movies, science fiction, avant-garde, cartoons, you name it and there

is a festival for it. On the other hand, good films are hard to find and the competition among the strongest festivals has become fierce. "This is one of the problems confronting the Cairo Film Festival, which is a relatively new event," notes Mr. Biraghi. "It needs power to attract movies that would otherwise go elsewhere. The Berlin festival could become a challenge to the Cairo festival, while the Cannes festival is Berlin's main competitor. It is a question of dates too."

"Cairo will only be able to compete against other well-established, prestigious festivals if directors are satisfied that the judges are impartial, serious and judicious in their choices," assures Mr. Biraghi. The Cairo Film Festival seems to have earned that sort of reputation and attracts increasing numbers of participants and viewers every year. It may be on its way to becoming a not-to-be-missed happening for cinema buffs and professionals from around the globe — World News Link.

## Being a veteran is no longer a requisite

CAIRO — With the proliferation of film festivals, being a veteran film-maker is no longer a requisite to win an audience. Egidio Termine from Italy, a newcomer, made a hit with the public at the Cairo festival with his first movie *For This Journey* in Sicily. Sicilian-born Termine, who is in his early 30s, is among those who believe young directors have an important contribution to make to today's cinema — they are the ones who set the trends of the future, make or break fashions and produce fresh talent.

Termine's film shows great promise. At first glance the film reads like a narrative, the story of a young cartoonist who returns to his native Sicily after an absence of 15 years and falls in love with a distant cousin. At a deeper level, the film explores the twilight zone between real life and the world of dreams, and the difference between preconceptions and reality. Unlike many young directors, Termine has not lost his sense of humour and the film teeters between comedy and seriousness, poetry and caricature.

Termine wrote, directed and acted in his film, but part of the credit for its success must go to Lucrezia Lante Della Rovere, one of Italy's leading new actresses, who worked closely



Egidio Termine (left) made a big hit at the Cairo Film Festival with his first movie *For This Journey* in Sicily.

Sicily. Top accolades also go to one of the stars, Lucrezia Lante Della Rovere (right) one of Italy's leading new actresses.

with him. The film clearly illustrates a new trend among young film-makers who view the cinema as a means of personal expression. Many write their own screenplays, seeking help only for technical matters.

"Making a film involves several stages," says Termine, "and I think you can look at them in three groups: Writing the screenplay which is when the author creates his characters, choosing the actors which is when the characters become flesh, and finally the

filming, which to me is mostly team work. I don't believe in that image of the almighty director who imposes, commands and always has the last word. I have been badly directed as an actor and I suffered a lot when I had to work with dictator-like directors who forced me to do scenes which did not feel right. So I try not to make the same mistake and I try to make the shooting of the film a real collaboration."

Termine does practice what he preaches, accord-

ing to actress Della Rovere. "It is a wonderful thing when you become friends on the set and truly form a team," says the fresh-faced star who comes from an aristocratic Italian background. "With Termine, we always tried to work together, not only on the screenplay but also when it came to exchanging ideas on how to work, act, speak. The collaboration shines through in the film which is really a joint effort."

Wearing jeans and sneakers, Della Rovere is a "natural" with no need of

make-up. She has played close to a dozen significant roles. "I think the days are gone when big stars arrived on the set wearing diamonds and fur coats, surrounded by a hoard of photographers," she laughs. Discovered seven years ago by Mario Minocelli, she has acted alongside stars such as Catherine Deneuve, Liv Ullmann and Philippe Noiret.

She agreed to act in Termine's film because she liked the idea and the screenplay. In fact her input was significant and she even changed the role he had in mind for her and played the wife rather than the girlfriend of the hero. "I felt that physically, I fit the character of his wife better and it seemed clear to me that another actress, Francesca d'Aloja, was far better suited to play the role of the sexy Sicilian 'friend' with whom he falls in love," Della Rovere says.

Like several recent box office successes in Italy such as *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso* which won an Oscar in 1989, and the *Soap Thief* which won the first prize at the 1990 Moscow festival, Termine's film is a low-budget project, which shows once again that millions of lire or dollars do not necessarily translate into quality — World News Link.

## Shakespeare collection celebrates 60th anniversary

By Mary Gabriel  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Capitol Hill's marble edifices are lined up like sentinels, all but one a tribute to an American leader or ideal.

The exception, which honours an Englishman, is the Folger Shakespeare library, home of the world's largest collection of Shakespeare.

Despite major acquisitions of renaissance and reformation works, the library, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, remains every bit the homage to the bard that its founder, Henry Clay Folger, envisioned.

"Mr. Folger wanted a

Tudor mansion inside and out but the architects said it would stick out like a sore thumb on Capitol Hill. So they got something semi-neoclassical outside and Folger got his way on the inside," said Francis Owens, head of the Folger Docents Board.

In 1879, Folger spent 25 cents to hear a lecture by Ralph Waldo Emerson at Amherst College. Emerson's mention of Shakespeare piqued the student's interest and he purchased a volume of Shakespeare's works.

That passing interest quickly became an obsession. Throughout his career at Standard Oil of New York, where he rose from clerk to

board chairman, Mr. Folger's secret passion was Shakespeare.

In 1885, he purchased his most important piece, the 1623 first folio edition — the first collection of Shakespeare ever published. The price was \$1.25.

"He and his wife made trips by boat to England, not on luxury liners but cheaply so that they could spend their money on books. They had no children and lived frugally," Folger spokeswoman Ann Greer said.

Sometimes they used agents to help them track down the increasingly popular and valuable volumes. "In the early 1900s, the only copy in existence of the

quarto of *Titus Andronicus* was found in a barn in Sweden wrapped in a lottery ticket," Ms. Greer said. "Mr. Folger got it because he authorised his agent to pay cash for it."

Far from publicising their literary riches, the Folgers kept their collection secret in a fireproof warehouse in New York until a suitable location could be found or built.

When it came time for a permanent home for his books, Mr. Folger's patriotism won out and he bought land next to the Library of Congress near the U.S. Capitol.

The library today remains as it was when it opened on April 23, 1932.

The Great Hall and reading room are hand-carved wood with plaster ceiling designed in Tudor rows. The initials "W. S." and Shakespeare's coat of arms are carved into reading-room bookcases, and on the west wall is a stained-glass window based on the seven ages of man from *As You Like It*.

Below ground, behind a vault as thick as a bank's, are two floors of book stacks. Part of the library's rare-book vault contains two thirds of all books printed in English or in England from the 1400s to 1640.

Mr. Folger did not live to see the building — he died two weeks after the cornerstone was laid — but that was

not the end of his physical association with the library.

The Folgers' ashes are buried in the wall in the east end of the reading room behind a plaque.

"Alarms go off at night and guards will check and say, 'that's Mr. and Mrs. Folger letting us know they're still here,'" Ms. Greer said.

Library director Werner Gundersheimer said Mr. Folger instructed in his will that the library, with its \$35 million endowment, be administered by the trustees of Amherst College. About 52 per cent of the costs are covered by income from the endowment and the remainder by grants and donations. With an annual acquisition

budget of less than \$200,000, the Folger staff continues to search for missing pieces.

"The collection will never be complete," said Elizabeth Niemeyer, Folger Acquisitions librarian for 40 years.

The search gets more difficult with time.

"A lot of collections have been dispersed and there isn't a lot of early materials. What we'll have to buy in many cases is fewer items and more expensive items. In our period there isn't much we don't have," she said.

The library is used by about 1,200 scholars a year who apply to study Stuart court masques. Shakespearean boy actors and other subjects. It has also been home to

the prestigious contemporary writers organisation, the Pen-Faulkner Foundation, for the past 10 years and the Shakespeare Theatre for 20 years.

The Folger formally opens its doors to the public once a year — this year on April 25 — but passersby are reminded daily of the British treasures within.

A garden made of herbs mentioned in Shakespeare's plays is at one side of the building's exterior and a statue of Puck from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is at the other.

Turned toward the Capitol, the inscription at Puck's base reads: "Lord, what fools these mortals be."

## Experts try to rehabilitate Poe's crazed image

By Mary Pemberton  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Edgar Allan Poe's image as a death-obsessed, despairing figure has obscured the legacy of a hard-working journalist who has the Stephen King of his day, says an expert who wants to rehabilitate the author's image.

Known for such horror tales as *The Raven* and *The Pit And The Pendulum*, the real Edgar Allan Poe had little in common with the person conjured up by the

popular psyche and kept alive in legend, said Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe museum in Baltimore.

"Poe was not the drunken, dope-addicted, crazed maniac that he has been depicted in the past," said Mr. Jerome. "He was a dashing man — a poet, with an air of refinement."

Poe, who lived in Baltimore from 1829 to 1836 in a tiny rowhouse on North Amity Street, searched the daily newspapers for story ideas and found plenty in this hard-working port city, said Mr.

Jerome.

In 1833, Poe wrote his first horror story, *Berenice*, because he was starving to death and desperately needed to make money. They grisly tale is about a woman who is buried alive and then dug up.

*Berenice* focuses on a man's obsession with his cousin's teeth. When the woman becomes ill, dies and is buried, the man digs her up and removes her teeth, not realising she's alive.

"Poe was capitalising on two common fears of the time

period," said Mr. Jerome. "If you were in a coma and they felt you were dead not many people wanted to examine the corpse because of superstition. Many times they would bury people alive thinking they were dead."

The practice was so common in Poe's time that coffins came equipped with bells and flags so the "dead" could alert the living if they woke up.

Poe also took inspiration from an article that appeared in the Feb. 23, 1835 issue of the *Baltimore Saturday Visitor* about dentists who were

taking teeth from buried corpses so they could use them in research.

Stories that Poe was a mentally disturbed drug addict do a disservice to a great writer, said Alex Rose, a retired professor who taught a course on Poe for 20 years at the University of Baltimore.

"This whole drug business. Drugs did not become prescription, given out by doctors, until the 1890s," Prof. Rose said. "There is no evidence he took it (opium) any more than anybody else. It is my understanding you could

go to the corner store and buy these things."

"There is no question that he had a problem with alcohol, but it was periodic."

Reports of Poe's extreme mood swings and frequent bouts of drunkenness could have been due to a medical condition such as a lesion on his brain or diabetes, Mr. Jerome said.

The dark intrigue that surrounds Poe's life is not only fueled by the tragedies that haunted him, such as the death of his mother and his wife from tuberculosis, but is

reinvigorated each year by a shadowy figure that visits Poe's grave on his birthday.

Each Jan. 19, a figure dressed in black, wearing a white scarf, visits the grave at Westminster Church between midnight and 6 a.m., leaving three red roses and a bottle of expensive cognac, said Mr. Jerome. The identity of the visitor, or succession of visitors, is a mystery, although the visits have gone on since at least 1949 and the figure was photographed in 1990 with infrared equipment.

Poe died in Baltimore in

1849 during a stopover on his way from his home in Richmond, Virginia, to New York, where he was planning his second marriage. While in Baltimore, he attended a birthday party, toasted his hostess with wine and went on a drinking binge.

He was found on Oct. 3 lying in a city street, suffering from delirium. He died at a hospital four days later at the age of 40.

"Lord, help my poor soul," were reportedly Poe's last words.



## Luck

By Maha Addasi

When they (whoever they are) say that some people have all the luck, they know what they are talking about. Because all the luck they have has been taken from the few of us so devoid of it that we consider ourselves borderline jinxes.

Let me explain more explicitly.

What are the chances of being caught in one of the three sets of tunnels found around Amman, without gas?

Usually the odds would be zero. But as I, along with my companion, drove from the Third Circle towards the Housing Bank Building, I (or I should say we) ran out of gas. It was just getting dark, and the car stopped right into the curb of the tunnel road which happened, by some act of "luck," to be sloping upwards.

Under different circumstances I would have panicked. But I was fortunate enough to have a very patient and understanding companion with me who happened to have gone through this same "episode" a couple of times already, and for whom jumping into a taxi to go for "a gallon of gas" seemed to be second nature.

As I sat waiting for gas, in the most dangerous spot to "park a car," I blamed myself for the broken gas gadget and my miscalculation, but then I realised that between the 1st and 7th Circles there are no visible gas stations that I know of. Whereas some roads are so congested with gas stations, they make for very "useful" road hazards.

Especially when cars go from the extreme left lane to make a dive for a gas station, every two minutes along the road.

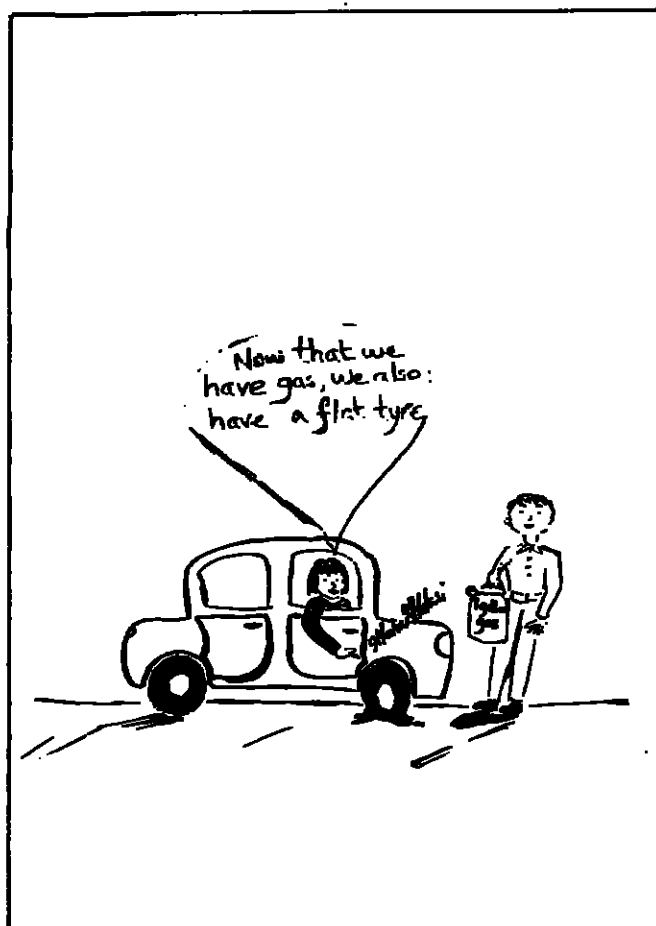
Some time later, when the gallon of gas was emptied into the car tank, we took a short-cut to the nearest gas station and "discovered" the short cut was really a dead end. We finally made it and all the "messy situation" was forgotten.

All, that is, until nine days later when I was parking the car near a curb and happened to hit that very curb. Natural move, you may think. It happens every day.

But not in the same way that I hit that curb, because leaving the car I heard what sounded like a distant water hose running. And with the rain coming down, I did not even think twice about the impossibility that anyone would be watering their plants in such weather.

I knew better, soon enough.

Coming back from the little errand I had to run, I found out that the front tire was completely flat. I had hit a sharp,



broken part of the curb while parking, and had simply burst the tire.

Fortunately, the same "patient" companion who had suffered with me nine days before in the tunnel, was with me once again to suffer again this time by changing the tire.

If I had planned these events to try anyone's patience I could not, by any means, have succeeded in being more aggravating. Yet my companion was so fabulously understanding, that even though I felt so sapped of luck through the turmoil, I was lucky to have a companion like mine.

What's more, realising that such companionship is rare in this day and age, I have decided to sign a lifetime contract with my companion.

## The rendezvous

By E. Yaghi

Because I could not stop for death,  
He kindly stopped for me;  
The carriage held but just ourselves  
And immortality.  
(From: The Chariot by Emily Dickinson)

The morning sweltered. There seemed to be little oxygen in the air, the humidity was nearly 90 per cent and the sun roasted anyone who dared venture outside. Maysaloon must have had a million things on her mind as she drove her burgandy car on the way to her college classes. Her infant son sat in the back, enclosed in his car seat, sweat rolling down his face while his expression twisted in frustration not only because of the boiling heat, but because he was buckled down and unable to crawl around and investigate his surroundings.

Not too far away, the sounds of summer soaked the atmosphere. Motorcycles zoomed, lawn mowers chugged and the smell of daisies that grew on the side of the road permeated the heat. Maysaloon may have been humming to her small son as she often did to soothe him as she drove, or she may have been pacifying his fury with baby talk to attract his attention and pass his time. Who knows? All at once a great roar burst out of the summer air and in an instant, the burgandy car, Maysaloon and the infant were hurled down the street and spun around. The next thing the young mother knew was that her car was pushed over a sidewalk and up on a mound near an old oak tree as if it had been a matchbox. She never knew what happened to her. All she knew was that the car might explode and that her baby was in danger. Without thinking, she jumped out of the door, reached in the back seat, unbuckled her son and ran for cover. Because she was in a state of shock, it wasn't until later that she felt a searing pain in her left leg. Her whole body shook, yet she clung to her son, checking him now and then all over for any sign of injury. "Thank God, Yusuf, you seem to be all right! My poor baby!" she exclaimed as she hugged and kissed him, temporarily forgetting herself and dismissing her husband who was at work. Effectively she blocked out of her mind the disaster near her of the car that was completely destroyed. All of a sudden, she saw a woman run out of her car and throw herself on the ground. A small crowd that had gathered to watch the accident, hovered around the woman until the ambulance arrived. No one paid attention to the hysterical young mother or the dainty infant that she clutched in her arms. Their rendezvous with death had just barely passed by, but no one seemed to care, perhaps because Maysaloon was a foreigner and an alien to their Western eyes.

At last, a concerned elderly white-haired woman approached Maysaloon and said, "My dear, are you hurt?" The girl managed, "Yes, my leg hurts a lot, but I'll be OK. I guess."

And then, "Oh, you poor child. How about the baby? Is he all right? You look like you could use some help!"

So, the ambulance workers put the young mother on a stretcher and started an I.V. One of the attendants hugged the baby and the ambulance took off. Its sirens screamed

and it rushed towards the nearest hospital where mother and baby were carried to an emergency room and given immediate treatment. The physician on duty reassured the frantic mother who by now was crying not from pain, but out of fear to her husband's reaction when he would hear about the loss of their car. "There, there now, apparently you're not in serious condition and the baby looks fine, not a scratch on him. We'll take some X-rays of you and look at the results and also test your blood to be sure there's no internal bleeding. If there are no problems, you should be able to go home soon."

A sample of Maysaloon's blood was drawn. Tests were made and X-rays taken. Other than some pulled muscles and a large bruise on her leg, basically, there wasn't much physically wrong with her. Fortunately, also, the baby was stunned, but not hurt and quickly resumed being the active baby he always was, tugging at everything, climbing on chairs, clapping his hands and testing his new teeth on everyone. Maysaloon looked at her son and knew that to his baby eyes, the hospital proved an exciting place to be. Friendly staff kept coming into his mother's room to play with him.

But, Maysaloon couldn't stop her tears. One doctor asked, "Why are you crying?"

"Because I wrecked the car. What's my husband going to say or do?"

"At least you and the baby are alive and in good health. The fact that you both escaped at all is a miracle. Cars are easy to replace, but human lives are irreplaceable!" he counseled her.

However, no one could comfort her. Finally, a haggard husband who had been summoned from work, dashed in the room. Maysaloon saw that all the colour had drained out of his face. His eyes bulged. Shock was stamped on his countenance. His hands shook and he said, "Maysaloon, are you and Yusuf all right? Where's the baby?"

Just then a nurse cruised in with a smiling son who was none the worse for the ordeal. An even happier father rejoiced over the survival of his son and wife. "Thank God you're both OK! I heard the car is a total wreck but the most important thing is that my family is safe!"

After the physicians were sure that there was no internal bleeding, Maysaloon and her son were discharged. The shaken family returned to their small cozy apartment and tried to forget the terrible events of the day. Life would be much harder for them now. If the accident was determined to be by Maysaloon's fault, then her husband would be financially responsible for all damages that were inflicted on the passengers of the other cars involved in the accident.

Even though Maysaloon and her baby were in good physical shape, the young husband would be faced with a bleak future. His car was totally ruined and he might be sued. Yet, he would only reply, "My family survived, thank God!"

Meanwhile, a cloud of guilt hangs over Maysaloon for in the end, she feels she is responsible for the accident and the financial loss that she has incurred upon her family. She also knows that she escaped a rendezvous with death until some future date. And who knows what the future will bring, perhaps some good luck for a change.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Jan. 23  
By The Associated Press

1570 — Earl of Moray, regent of Scotland, is assassinated.

1631 — France, by Treaty of Barwalde, undertakes to subsidize Sweden.

1668 — England and Holland sign alliance of the Hague.

1799 — French troops capture Italian city of Naples.

1849 — Prussia suggests German union without Austria.

1876 — Britain's cabinet sends fleet to Constantinople at Sultan Abdul Hamid II's request.

1913 — Nazim Pasha is murdered in Turkish coup, and Shevket Pasha forms ministry.

1920 — Holland refuses to surrender Germany's former Kaiser William II to allies for punishment as World War I criminal.

1937 — Seventeen Communist leaders confess in Moscow that they conspired with Leon Trotsky to undermine Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin.

1945 — Soviet forces reach Oder River in World War II.

1964 — Indonesia and Malaysia agree to ceasefire in their undeclared border war.

1968 — North Korea seizes U.S. Navy ship Pueblo and holds crew as spies.

1973 — U.S. President Richard Nixon announces that accord has been reached in Vietnam War.

1989 — Civilian commandos and army troops backed by tanks battle at infantry base on outskirts of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Friday, Jan. 24

1547 — Earl of Surrey is executed for treason in England.

1568 — Duke of Alba declares William of Orange (The Silent) an outlaw.

1634 — Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II secretly deprives Duke of Wallenstein of his command and declares him a traitor.

1798 — Irish rebellion breaks out.

1848 — James Marshall finds gold nugget in U.S. state of California, touching

off gold rush.

1907 — First Boy Scout troop is organized by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in England.

1924 — Petrograd is renamed Leningrad in honour of founder of Soviet Union.

1946 — U.N. General Assembly votes to create U.N. Atomic Energy Commission.

1967 — South Vietnam's Premier Nguyen Cao Ky runs into wild anti-war demonstration on visit to New Zealand.

1973 — U.S. negotiator Henry Kissinger says Vietnam peace agreement working out in Paris also means end to fighting in Laos and Cambodia.

1973 — U.S. negotiator Henry Kissinger says Vietnam peace agreement working out in Paris also means end to fighting in Laos and Cambodia. Hanoi's De Luc Tho calls agreement "a great victory for the Vietnamese people."

1986 — Guerrillas advance into Ugandan capital of Kampala as army opposition crumbles, pushing military government to edge of collapse.

1989 — Rescuers struggle against heavy smoke and toxic gas to reach at least 100 miners trapped inside collapsed gold mine in southern Peru.

1991 — Lithuania asks Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from buildings seized in that Baltic republic.

Saturday, Jan. 25

1494 — Alfonso II succeeds to throne of Naples on death of Ferdinand I.

1544 — Sir Thomas Wyatt raises army in England to oppose Mary I's projected marriage.

1579 — Union of Utrecht is signed by Holland, Zealand, Utrecht, Gelderland, Friesland, Groningen and Overijssel, marking foundation of Dutch Republic.

1802 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte becomes president of the Italian Republic.

1831 — Polish diet proclaims independence of Poland, dethrones Nicholas, and deposes the Romanovs.

1944 — Battle for Cassino begins in Italy in World War II.

1952 — Crisis arises between France and Germany over administration of the Saar.

1959 — Britain signs trade pact with East Germany.

1962 — African heads of state of Monrovia Group (Liberia, Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon) issue charter for pan-African cooperation.

1975 — Sheikh Mujibur Rahman abolishes parliamentary rule in Bangladesh and assumes absolute powers as president.

1983 — Japanese government lodges strong protest with Soviet Union over Soviet military build-up in Far East, including possible transfer of intermediate-range missiles from Europe to Siberia.

1986 — Voyager 2, sweeping to within 51,000 miles (81,000 kilometres) of Uranus, discovers a 10th ring, a 15th moon and a north pole that angles downward.

1989 — Cambodia's Premier Hun Sen rejects proposal for international peacekeeping force in his country.

1991 — Leaders of rival Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Croatia meet in effort to defuse tensions there.

Sunday, Jan. 26

1609 — Peace of Karlowitz is signed by Austria, Russia, Poland and Venice with Turkey.

1748 — Allies make new treaty for containing France.

1841 — British sovereignty is proclaimed over Hong Kong.

1885 — The Mahdi takes Khartoum in Sudan, and British General Charles Gordon is killed.

1931 — Mahatma Gandhi is released from prison in India for discussions with government.

1934 — Germany signs 10-year nonaggression pact with Poland.

1942 — First U.S. expeditionary force arrives in Europe in World War II, with troops put ashore in Northern Ireland.

1952 — Famed Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo, Egypt, is burned during riots by mobs demanding British withdrawal from the Suez.

1987 — Kashmir constitution for incorporation with India goes into effect.

1977 — United States charges that arrest of human rights activists in Czechoslovakia violates 1975 Helsinki

Agreement between Communist and Western nations.

1987 — U.S. President Ronald Reagan vows he will make no concessions to Lebanese terrorists, and warns Americans to get out of Lebanon.

1990 — Romanian Vice President Dimitru Mazilu resigns to protest increasingly repressive policies of that country's interim government.

Monday, Jan. 27

1695 — Mustafa II succeeds as Sultan of Turkey on death of Ahmad II.

1822 — Greek independence is proclaimed formally.

1865 — Treaty between Spain and Peru virtually recognises Peru's independence.

1914 — Haiti's President Oreste Debato dies during revolt, and U.S. Marines land to preserve order.

1943 — U.S. bombers stage first all U.S. air raid on Germany in World War II — a daylight attack on Wilhelmshaven; Germany begins civil conscription of women.

1944 — Soviet city of Leningrad is liberated completely from Germans in World War II.

1947 — Regional Advisory Commission for the Pacific is established.

1950 — United States agrees to provide arms to NATO members.

1964 — France establishes diplomatic relations with China.

1967 — Three U.S. Apollo astronauts die in flash fire aboard space capsule; United States, Soviet Union and 60 other nations sign treaty to limit military activities in outer space.

1973 — Accords are signed in Paris ending Vietnam War.

1987 — Fear grows for safety of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who vanished previous week in Lebanon while trying to negotiate release of foreign hostages.

1988 — West German man is kidnapped in Syrian-controlled West Beirut by gunmen, some of them in police uniforms.

1991 — Allied aircraft bomb Iraq's second city, Basra.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 23

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Room Upstairs

Starring: Sam Waterson

The film is about a teacher who has got a complex in socialising with people. She is isolated from people even though she rents rooms to students. Finally she admires Travis, a music teacher, who rents a room at her mansion and they fall in love.

Friday, Jan. 24

8:30 Lenny

Lenny finds out from his mother that his dad fell and hurt himself.

9:10 Derrick

A bank is held up by a gang headed by Kolar, a professional murderer, who kills the bank's president.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Chancer

Stephen is at Douglas Motors and Jo gets a job at the bank. The bank manager

tries to influence Douglas Motors to throw Stephen out.

Saturday, Jan. 25

8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

9:00 Encounter

9:30 For The Sake Of Children

A documentary programme about a British lady who travelled to Peru as a tourist and ends up staying for good.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

La Mort Adit Pent

Zeina, a young lady, is saved from committing suicide by a man who later falls in love with her.

Sunday, Jan. 26

8:30 Empty Nest

Harry and his two daughters decided to sell the house and buy another one but odd things happen and they think it is because they want to sell the house.

9:10 Nippon

The Risen Sun  
Japan's view of the world

Tuesday, Jan. 28

8:30 Evening Shade

Michelle goes to her couch's office and rudely tells him that she will teach his son all about love.

9:10 Colour In The Creek

All the men, including John, get very enthusiastic about the excavation and by coincidence they discover mercury.

10:00 News in English

10:20 G.B.H.

Someone is out to get Michael Murray. Murray is the top man in town — champion of the oppressed, chaser of women and the new leader of the city.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

8:30 Teesh

9:10 Climate And Man

A scientific documentary on climate changes around the world — tornadoes, deserts and desertification.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Prime Suspect

A lady chief detective inspector solves a complicated murder case.

## Andy Capp





# Can Silence Of The Lambs beat December films in Oscar derby?

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Now that the deadline for Oscar hopefuls is past, Hollywood faces the question: Can *Silence Of The Lambs*, released in February, beat out movies released in December?

History is against it.

Of the 56 Best-Picture winners since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences started giving awards on an annual basis (the first six were for split years: 1927-28), 44 were released in the second part of the year. An overwhelming 27 reached

theatres in November and December.

Movie studios have heeded the odds, saving what they consider to be their prestige films for late in the year, when they would be fresh in the minds of the academy voters. Driving Miss Daisy, winner for 1989, came out at Christmas of that year. Dances With Wolves, last year's winner, was released before Thanksgiving.

The *Silence Of The Lambs* is now in video release and is one of the top five rentals. This might help keep the movie in voters' minds.

Orion Pictures released the movie on Valentine's Day,

and the Jonathan Demme film was hailed by critics as a thriller of great originality, superbly acted by Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins. The film was named best of the year by the New York film critics circle and the national board of review.

With Orion in bankruptcy court and therefore unable to launch an expensive and campaign, and *Lambs* long out of release, the film faces competition from more recent movies such as *Bugsy*, which won the Los Angeles Film Critics Award, *The Prince Of Tides*, *JFK* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. The surprise spring hit *Thelma And Louise* and *Terry Gilliam's The Fisher King* also are possibilities.

Here's how the other major races are shaping up:

mentioned for *The Prince Of Tides*.

## Best Actor

Hopkins seems a sure thing as the man-eating doctor of *The Silence Of The Lambs*. The National Board of Review selected him as supporting actor, but Orion is entering him as best actor, and the nominating actors branch is likely to agree.

Warren Beatty, the charming killer of *Bugsy*, appears to have the best chance of his career to win the big prize for acting (he was named best director for *Reds* in 1981). Robin Williams should again be in the running for *The Fisher King*. Nick Nolte is a strong entry for *The Prince Of Tides*. The perennial nominee, Robert De Niro, could be cited for *Cape Fear*.

in *City Slickers*. Alan Rickman's devilish Sheriff of Nottingham was the hit of *Robin Hood*, *Prince Of Thieves*.

Other possibilities: Joe Pesci and Tommy Lee Jones, *JFK*; Aidan Quinn, *At Play In The Fields Of The Lord*; Ben Kingsley, *Bugsy*; Samuel Jackson, *Jungle Fever*; Michael Lerner, *Barton Fink*; Steven Hill, *Billy Bathgate*.

## Best Director

The Best Picture nominees generally — but not always — bring nominations for their directors. Thus the contenders appear to be Demme, *The Silence Of The Lambs*; Barry Levinson, *Bugsy*; Miss Streisand, *The*

*Prince Of Tides*; Oliver Stone, *JFK*; Ridley Scott, *Thelma And Louise*; and Gilliam, *The Fisher King*.

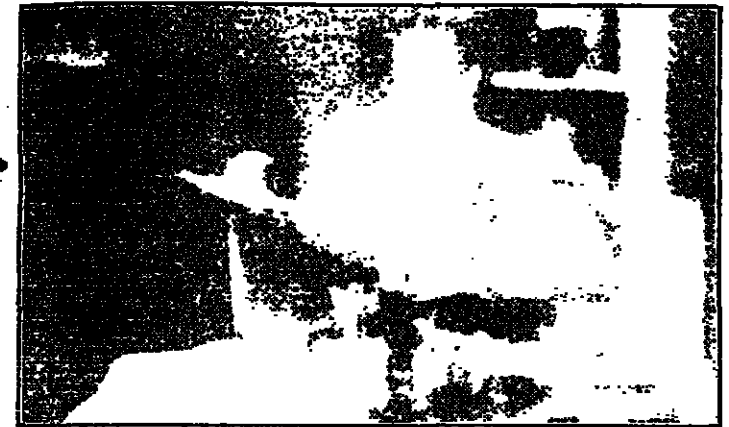
Other possibilities: John Singleton, *Boyz N The Hood* and Lawrence Kasdan, *Grand Canyon*.

Nominations are made in categories. For example, actors vote for actors, cinematographers vote for cinematographers, directors vote for directors and so forth. All members vote for best picture.

The nominations will be announced on Feb. 19 in the usual pre-dawn ceremonies at the academy headquarters in Beverly Hills. The Oscars will be presented on the stage of the Los Angeles Music Centre on March 30.



Bette Midler stars in the film *For The Boys*



Warren Beatty (above) and Annette Bening (below) in scenes from *Bugsy*.



**Best Actress**

This category languished during the 1970s and '80s when there were few meaty parts for women in film.

This year, Miss Foster, 1988 winner for *The Accused*, will undoubtedly be nominated for *The Silence Of The Lambs*. Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis could be a tandem entry for *Thelma And Louise*, thought one critics' poll listed Davis as supporting actress.

Laura Bern seems a likely nominee for her ingenious country girl in *Rambling Rose*. Other possibilities: Bette Midler, *For The Boys*; Jessica Lange, *Cape Fear*; Annette Bening, *Bugsy*; Jennifer Jason Leigh, *Kush*; Kathy Bates, *Fried Green Tomatoes*; Isabelle Huppert, *Madame Bovary*.

If voters overcome their resistance to Barbra Streisand (her *Yentl* went unrewarded), she might be

## Supporting Actress

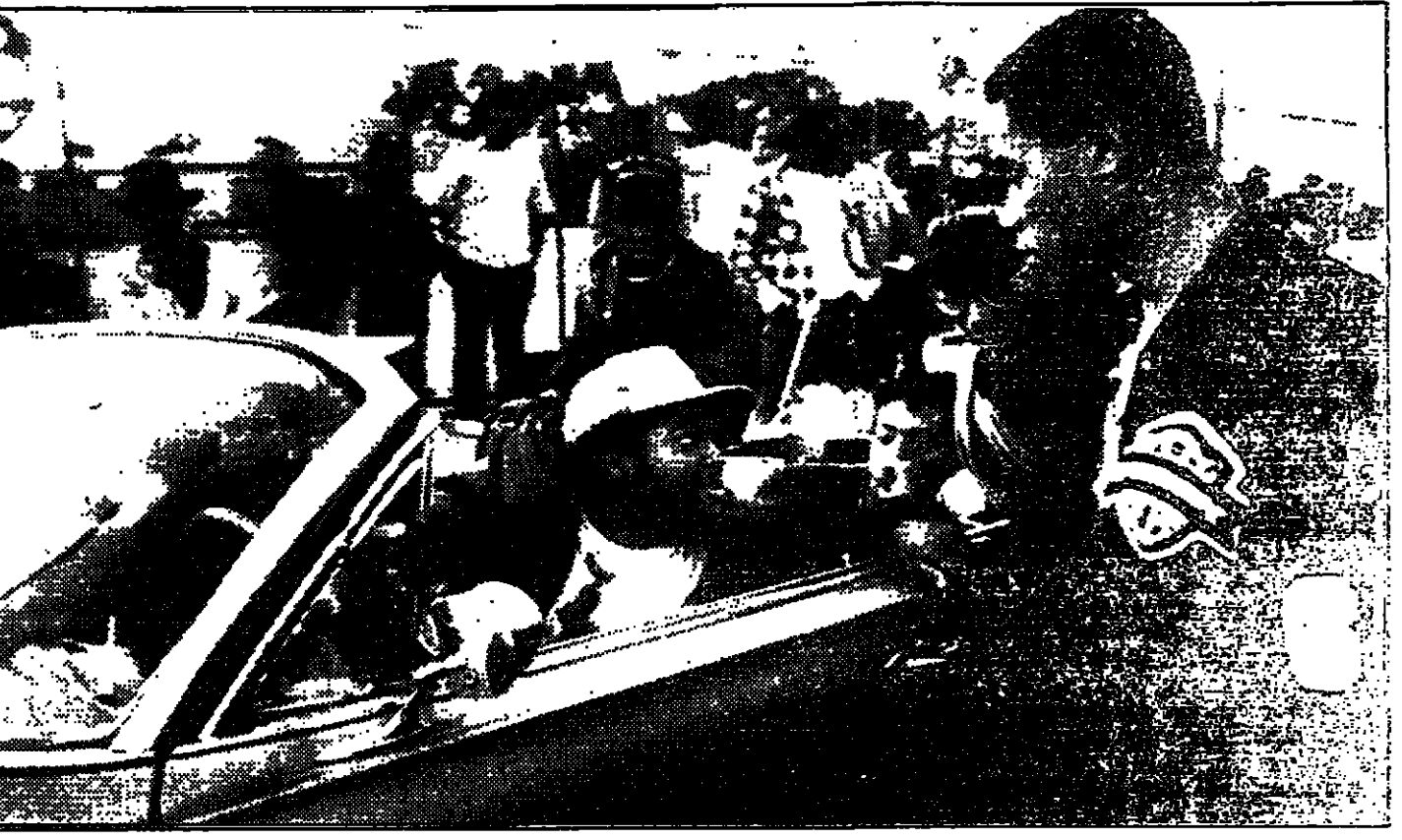
The supporting nominations customarily go to the major films rarely does a lesser film draw recognition.

Mercedes Ruehl and Amanda Plummer seem likely nominees for *The Fisher King*. Other nominees could be Diane Ladd, *Rambling Rose*; Mary Stuart Masterson, *Fried Green Tomatoes*; Maggie Smith, *Hook*; Kate Nelligan, *Frankie And Johnny*; Mary McDonnell, *Grand Canyon*; Juliette Lewis, *Cape Fear*.

## Supporting Actor

Robert Duvall, 1983 winner as Best Actor for *Tender Mercies*, is a prime choice for another southern characterisation in *Rambling Rose*.

A sentimental favourite is Jack Palance, who stole the show as the leathery trail boss



John Singleton (2nd from right) discusses a scene with the cast in the film *Boyz N The Hood*

# Will Beauty And The Beast emerge as belle of Oscar nominations?

By John Horn  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It dazzled critics. Bowled over children. Brought tears to adults. But can *Beauty And The Beast* impress Oscar voters?

No animated film ever has been nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award, and a G-rated movie hasn't won the top prize since 1969. Oscar voters tend to prefer serious, politically correct adult dramas such as *Gandhi*, *Dances With Wolves* and *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Nevertheless, the Walt Disney Co. — and much of

Hollywood — believe the animated tale of a beautiful girl and a charmed brute has a shot at a Best Picture nomination. The nominations will be announced on Feb. 19.

"Whether or not we get nominated, which is ultimately up to the movie gods, it is really gratifying to have outsiders and critics actually discussing it seriously," said Peter Schneider, senior vice president of Disney's Feature Animation Division.

Ballots for the 64th Academy Awards will be mailed Friday, and Disney is

mounting an intense campaign to win votes. The studio sent the 4,966 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences a copy of the *Beauty And The Beast* soundtrack and a five-minute videocassette highlighting the movie's wizardry.

In addition, academy members were shown a work-in-progress version of the movie in October. And in trade newspaper advertisements, Disney urged voters for Best Picture, Best director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Art Direction, Best Film Editing, Best Ori-

ginal Score, Best Original Song Score, Best Original Song, Best Sound, Best Sound Effects Editing and Best Visual Effects.

The actors who provided the voices for the animated characters are ineligible under academy rules.

It is likely one or both of the songs *Beauty And The Beast* and *Be Our Guest* will be nominated; lyricist Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken previously won the best song Oscar for *Under The Sea* from 1989's *The Little Mermaid*, also by Disney.

One factor in favour of

*Beauty And The Beast*: 1991 was not considered a great movie year. Favourites for the Best Picture nomination include *The Silence Of The Lambs*, *Bugsy*, *JFK*, *The Prince Of Tides*, *Thelma And Louise*, *The Fisher King*, *Grand Canyon* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

Beyond that, though, the film's chances are murky and history is not in its favour — although the Disney animators have received recognition in the past.

Snow White And the Seven Dwarfs, the first feature-length animated film, re-

ceived an honorary Oscar in 1938 for "a significant screen innovation." The academy presented a certificate to conductor Leopold Stokowski and his associates in 1942 for *Fantasia*. More recently, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, a live action-animation hybrid, collected six nominations, winning Oscars for editing, visual effects and sound effects editing.

Oliver, the musical based on Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist*, was the last G-rated Best Picture winner.

There are several theories why animation gets short shrift.

One holds that academy voters — whose largest branch is 1,336 living, breathing, three-dimensional actors — don't like voting for two-dimensional drawings.

Another maintains that animated movies in recent years were so inept the whole genre was relegated to the backwaters of Hollywood.

Then there's the academy bias for the "serious" movies.

All the same, there are few limits to the popularity of *Beauty And The Beast*.

It already has made more money than any other animated film in its initial re-

lease, passing the \$84.7 million record set by *The Little Mermaid*. It is on track to sell \$130 million in tickets in the United States, company officials say.

Film critics praised *Beauty* and called on Oscar voters to bury it with Academy Award nominations.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which presented the 49th Golden Globe Awards Saturday, nominated *Beauty And The Beast* for Best Picture. Unlike the Oscars, the Golden Globes separate films into two categories, drama and musical or comedy.

# Brazil's screen goddess finds fame overseas

By Tova Chapoval  
Reuter

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's top-rated television personality, a leggy blonde children's show hostess with a spicy past, has found a formula for success that transcends borders and oceans.

Xuxa (pronounced Shoo-Sha), whose popularity has soared in Latin America, the United States and even Europe, first gained fame as the adolescent girlfriend of soccer star Pele.

Posing nude for magazines and starring in a sex film would hardly make Xuxa — the nickname her brother gave when she was a baby — an ideal role model for children in most nations. But that is what happened in laid-back Brazil.

At 28, the singer/dancer/actress, whose real name is Maria da Graça Meneghel, is at the peak of her popularity, captivating audiences from Uruguay to Spain.

Here musical variety programmes in 16 countries, records, movies and related

merchandise earned her \$19 million last year, putting her among the world's 40 top-paid artists, according to *Forbes* magazine.

Although most Brazilian parents adore her, some question her influence on children.

The sex film, in which a nude 19-year-old Xuxa seduces a 12-year-old boy in bed, has been re-released and is playing to packed audiences across the country. But she has no regrets over having made it.

"I regret having met some people in this film who are idiots, but not having made the movie," she told Reuters in a 3 a.m. interview after a 12-hour marathon taping of her show.

"People need to err to learn," she said, but she quickly added that making the film was not an error.

"It was a film for adults. Today I no longer make films for adults."

Nor does she regret appearing nude in three magazines early in her career although she says would no longer do

so.

Xuxa sees no contradiction in her past experiences and serving as a role model for children.

"I did not sell my body. I sold my image," she said.

Photographs suggest that image was far less glamorous than it is today. Rigorous exercise has slimmed her and, according to her business manager Marlene Mattos, Xuxa has had plastic surgery on her nose.

Her costumes on her five-hour daily television show are another source of controversy. Brazilian girls as young as four learn to imitate her tight mini-skirts, knee-high leather boots, sequins and makeup.

On television and in shows around the world Xuxa is accompanied by adolescent blonde Xuxettes, known as Paquitas, in a country with a strong black culture and an overwhelming mixed-race population, Brazilian children idolise the blonde beauties they see on television.

Mattos indignantly rejects

criticism, noting that southern Brazil has many "aryan" types among its immigrants.

"Can Xuxa help it if she was born with blonde hair and blue eyes?" asks Mattos, herself of mixed race and born in Brazil's impoverished north east.

Xuxa's off-screen romances have also gained her publicity.

After her relationship with Pele ended she was courted by Formula One racing champion Ayrton Senna and recently she has been seen in the company of Argentine President Carlos Menem during frequent trips to Buenos Aires to tape her Spanish programme. Xuxa insists they are friends.

"He is a very nice person," she said. "He is a gentleman, he always helps my team... nothing more than that. I have a lot of respect for him. I would never call him Carlos or Menem, always President Menem."

Her strenuous schedule leaves little time for romance.

Her children's show in Spanish is seen all over Latin America and in the United States. In March she will begin regular visits to Spain to tape a weekly show.

She said she had rejected an offer to do a U.S. show because she felt her English was not strong enough but she may reconsider after studying in New York in January and February.

Her commitment to children extends beyond entertainment. Her private foundation, located in a mansion outside Rio, provides 300 poor children with food and medical care and teaches them how to read.

Although her work is the most important aspect of her life right now, she said she would like to have children of her own in the near future. But first she must find the right man.

She said she might try to become pregnant next year "if I arrange a father. If not, it does not help to try and get pregnant next year."

# Hong Kong film stars protest gang extortions

By Kathy Chen  
Reuter

HONG KONG — Hundreds of film stars and show business figures have taken to the streets to protest against triad gang efforts to control Hong Kong's lucrative film industry.

The protesters marched through the central business district as crowds lined the streets.

Local luminaries, including kung fu superstar Jackie Chan and soft-porn actress Amy Yip, seemed to be in more danger from eager onlookers than gangsters.

"This is great. There are so many stars here I recognise," said one woman waiting for a bus.

Hong Kong's triads, tightly knit organised crime groups similar to Italy's powerful mafia, have been known for years to extort protection money from film crews and to force actors to perform in films made by gang-controlled companies.

Until this week no one appeared willing to speak out against the triads, who often escape prosecution because

their victims are too frightened to testify.

Show business leaders decided to act after triads stole two reels of film from a major production scheduled for release over Chinese New Year next month in retaliation for an actor's refusal to act in a triad movie, film industry sources said.

In newspaper interviews, popular actor and pop singer Andy Lau accused triads of terrorising him into acting in their movies for the past three years.

Last year, 125 first-release locally produced movies grossed more than one billion dollars (\$128.21 million) in the British colony alone.

"It's the whole film circle's problem," said actor Chow Yun-Fat, who has played gangster roles in several films.

"Actors get to leave first if the triads arrive on the set, but it can be a life-threatening situation for the workers," he said as he posed for pictures.

Chua Lan, producer of Jackie Chan's hugely successful kung fu movies, said he had to pay at least 100,000

dollars (\$12,820) to gangsters for each film he made.

"They come in groups and harass the actors and stand in front of the cameras," said Chua, elegant in a full-length traditional Chinese gown and white scarf.

"If you leave them standing there and don't pay them, then they break your sets."

Representatives of the protesters, numbering about 300, later met officials from the Organised Crime and Triads Group.

"We discussed all the problems of the film industry in detail and we are very, very satisfied that the police will take determined action to eradicate this sort of illegal activity," said director Philip Chan, who heads the Hong Kong Film Director's Guild.

Some film industry figures have accused police of failing to respond to requests for protection from triad harassment.

Police would give protection as needed, said Lau Yuk-Kuen, chief staff officer of the Organised Crime and Triads Group. He declined to comment on specific action to be taken.



## Low blood pressure may lower mood — or vice versa

LONDON (AP) — People with low blood pressure are more likely to suffer from low moods, though it isn't clear how the conditions may be linked, researchers said.

The study, published in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*, is based on data from the Whitehall II Study, an ongoing British study of 10,314 men and women to examine the impact of lifestyle on health.

"We don't know if depressed people get low blood pressure or if low blood pressure causes mood disturbance. At this stage it's a bit early to comment on advice that should be given to people with low blood pressure," said Dr. Michael Marmot, one of the investigators at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

A recent analysis of Whitehall II data revealed a significant link between low blood pressure and feelings of dizziness, anxiety, fatigue and inability to concentrate, investigators said.

They also found that the lower the blood pressure, the more likely volunteers were to show signs of depression on a standard test of mental health.

The associations were independent of diet, drugs and cholesterol level.

Investigators said that 1,847 men with blood pressures lower than 115 systolic were 50 per cent more likely to report feelings of dizziness and light-headedness than 1,636 men with systolic pressures over 134.

Systolic blood pressure, the top number on a blood pressure reading, measures

the force with which the blood is driven out of the heart. An average measurement is about 130.

Among the women, 887 with systolic blood pressure lower than 109 were 33 per cent more likely to suffer from "unexplained tiredness" compared to women with pressures higher than 131.

In an accompanying editorial in the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. Anthony Mann of the Institute of Psychiatry in London pointed out that German physicians regard low blood pressure linked with low mood as a treatable illness. One in 20 German women are given drugs to treat low blood pressure associated with fatigue, he said.

The illness, called hypotensive syndrome by the Germans, is not recognised in many other countries, including the United States.

Dr. Lino Covi, a psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University, said the link between blood pressure and mood is "certainly worth looking into, but it's not established at this point."

If there is a relationship, the question remains whether low blood pressure is directly correlated with low mood or if it's a more complicated association, said Dr. Covi. For instance, he said depressed people may suffer from insomnia and loss of appetite. The weight loss and fatigue may cause low blood pressure.

Dr. Marmot said that his study "in no way argues against the dangers of high blood pressure," which is known to increase the risk of heart disease.

## Raves and Ecstasy — Britain's teenage cult craze

By Peter Millership  
Reuter

LONDON — "You're childishly happy. No money problems, no women problems. You're just lost in high-energy dance culture," says 19-year-old Marcus.

Two hours ago he swallowed "love doves", better known as the synthetic drug Ecstasy, to go raving — the latest music and drugs craze to sweep Britain.

And at two o'clock on a Saturday morning in a central London basement nightclub a "rave" is in full swing and Marcus and his friends are high on Ecstasy.

Youngsters decked out in fluorescent sportswear dance convulsively, starting as they move their hands hypnotically to heavy-rhythm beats "housed" or mixed by disc jockeys.

Tens of thousands of British teenagers flock each week to all-night raves, sometimes at secret venues, to take drugs with names like

Disco Biscuits, Triple X and Denis The Menace.

Popularised in the acid house party phenomenon of the late 1980s, Ecstasy became known as the "love drug" because it can induce a rapturous sense of well-being and energy.

But its image amongst teenagers as a non-addictive fun drug compared with narcotics such as heroin ignores the six deaths so far attributed to Ecstasy, or E as it is known.

The scale of the underground rave culture, which replaced acid house, is only just emerging with news there was a five-fold rise in customs seizures of synthetic drugs last year.

Two-thirds of that haul was Ecstasy.

Dreamy smiles of young Ecstasy users splashed on the front pages of the nation's tabloids are worrying parents and causing outrage among politicians.

"Ecstasy is supposed to mean heaven. For too many of our kids it means hell,"

said the Daily Star. "It's time the police came down hard on the sickos who run this tragic trade."

The youth fad is big money for drug barons. Synthetic drugs seized in 1991 had a street value of more than \$60 million.

In London alone, police raids on raves produced 66,000 Ecstasy tablets last year, compared with 5,000 in 1990.

Police Commander Roy Penrose said the Ecstasy cult caught police by surprise.

"We are refocusing our intelligence efforts to counter what we perceive as this new and worrying threat," said customers chief investigations officer Douglas Tweddle.

Some researchers believe up to half a million young Britons have used Ecstasy at least once.

Jerky Movements, sweat-soaked bodies and glazed eyes are tell-tale signs of Ecstasy-users who twitch to a simple, repetitive beat blow-

ing whistles and flashing torches.

What is the attraction?

"It's the feel-good factor," said Marcus pointing to the seething dance floor. "When you're out there E'd out and trance-dancing you feel you're a hero."

But Mike, at the same London nightclub amidst the day ice clouds and flashing lights, told a different story.

Drugs he bought as Ecstasy gave him a harrowing trip which landed him in a hospital ward and in need of psychiatric help. "It was the worst thing that ever happened to me," he said.

Dr. John Henry of the Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital in London said taking Ecstasy was like Russian roulette. "People do not know what they are taking," he said.

Ravers take several doses to get, in drug parlance, "monged" or "cabbaged." Taking several in a night is called "stacking."

Social workers are trying to

convey that far from being a safe and fun drug Ecstasy poses a serious health hazard.

Most of the Ecstasy deaths were caused by internal bleeding — the drug can disrupt the clotting process — but doctors have also warned users of "chronic paranoid psychosis."

Manic dancing powered by Ecstasy causes rapid heartbeat, fever, dehydration and exhaustion. Another user, Steve, said: "Your body can't tell you when you're tired."

Said Customs Minister Gillian Shephard: "The message is simple. This drug is dangerous, don't take it. Ecstasy kills."

The high cost of Ecstasy may be working against teenage alcohol abuse. Often teenagers, who can spend \$45 for an Ecstasy tablet, cannot afford drinks. They buy just one drink at a club and spend the rest of the time filling the glass from water taps.

At some venues, ravers smear menthol rub, used as a decongestant, on each others'

torsos saying they get high from the strong fumes.

The psychotropic or mood-altering "high," lasts four hours.

Ecstasy is mass-produced in underground laboratories in Germany and the Netherlands, and police have also discovered Ecstasy labs in London.

Developed nearly a century ago by German chemists as an appetite suppressant, Ecstasy has a long chemical title.

Methylene-Dioxyamphetamine, abbreviated to MDMA, has been used by psychiatrists to help patients shed inhibitions.

Some music critics had hailed raving as this decade's answer to the hard, angry aggression of the 1970s punk rock a return to the simple good times of the hippie generation.

Others condemned it as mind-numbing escapism with little musical value and a deeply negative message for modern youth.

## Introduction of female condoms welcomed

By Clare Nullis  
The Associated Press

GENEVA — Women will soon be able to wear condoms, finally getting the power to protect themselves from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The new condom goes on sale in Switzerland early in February and in France and Britain later in the year. American health experts could recommend its approval at the end of the month.

The condom is unlikely to replace the pill for contraception, but has been widely welcomed because it allows women to take action to prevent AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"We are 100 per cent in

favour," said Karen Pataky of planned parenthood in Washington.

"Many heterosexual men don't like using condoms and the bottom line is that if they don't want to use one they won't use one," she said in a telephone interview.

"Female condoms would give women another option."

The vaginal condom is a large, lubricated, polyurethane adaptation of the male version. It is about seven inches long, has flexible rings at both ends and is inserted like a diaphragm.

The inner ring fits behind the pubic bone and the outer ring remains outside the body.

Unlike the diaphragm, which only stops sperm from passing the cervix and thus

prevents pregnancy, the female condom also protects the entire vagina and labia from any HIV virus on a penis or in sperm.

The concept was developed by a Danish gynecologist in a bid to tackle infertility problems, according to Dr. Patrick Rowe of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Dr. Rowe said sexually transmitted diseases cause 65 per cent of female infertility in sub-Saharan Africa and 25 per cent in developed countries. He said who became interested in the female condom as a way of preventing such diseases, and particularly the AIDS virus.

"Our interest in the condom is not as a contraceptive, but rather as an additional barrier method against AIDS," he said.

He said condom is very tough and doesn't tear like latex male condoms, but is trickier to use. Dr. Rowe expects about 4-5 per cent of the women who use to become pregnant, because some might not follow the instructions properly.

He said the female condom would never replace the male version but it would make a big difference for women with more than one sexual partner who are at risk from AIDS.

Dr. Patrick Friel, an AIDS expert with the World Health Organisation, said clinical trials have shown the female condom to be safe. Dr. Friel said the U.N. agency is now aiming to persuade governments to introduce it in national health programmes.

He says projects are planned in Zimbabwe, Botswana

and the Philippines. Zambia, another southern African country with a high AIDS rate, has also expressed interest.

The most detailed who study so far has been in Thailand, where the number of AIDS cases is expected to rocket over the next few years due to prostitution.

Dr. Rowe said about one third of the Thai prostitutes' male clients refused to use condoms, but most did not complain about the woman wearing the device.

A large majority of the prostitutes found the condom uncomfortable, mainly because of the inner ring. But Dr. Rowe said manufacturers should be able to improve the design.

Manufacturers, trials in industrialised countries have shown better results.

Mary-Ann Leeper of Wisconsin Pharmaceutical, the U.S. company which will manufacture and market the product in North America under the name reality, says 75 per cent of women surveyed were happy and had no problems with comfort.

An advisory committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is scheduled to meet on Jan. 31 and is likely to recommend that the female condom be approved for distribution in the United States.

A London-based company, Chartex, is manufacturing the condom for distribution outside North America under the name Femidom.

Its Swiss distributors, Uhlmann-Eyraud, said it would sell for about four times the cost of the standard male condom.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

KIDDIE ZOO  
By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS  
1. Sheep  
5. Go steady  
9. Measure of gold  
13. Musical refrain  
15. Obedient "trend"  
20. Algebran port  
21. Exhilarate  
22. Musical guy  
23. "Oz" character  
24. Vote into office  
27. Barn legally  
28. Gr. letter  
29. Sixth sense  
30. Office workers  
31. Once called  
32. "Poker" dog  
34. Jollier  
35. Pale tan  
38. Urges to action  
41. Break into pieces

DOWN  
1. Oath  
2. Exclamations of discovery  
3. "A Kick Out of You"  
4. Source of copra  
5. Use a driving rod  
6. Macaw  
7. Canasta cover  
8. Finales  
9. Offshore island  
10. Woody and  
11. Mrs. Gorkov  
12. Surrounding  
13. Knockout count  
14. Anonymous old children's tale  
15. Sonnet  
16. Part of USA  
17. Death

Diagramless 21 X 21, By James Barrick

ACROSS  
1. Mutterer  
10. Run off to bed  
11. Daffodil  
12. Drop in on  
13. Eagle  
14. Allow for  
15. Secluded place  
16. Sailor  
20. — ride  
21. Baking need

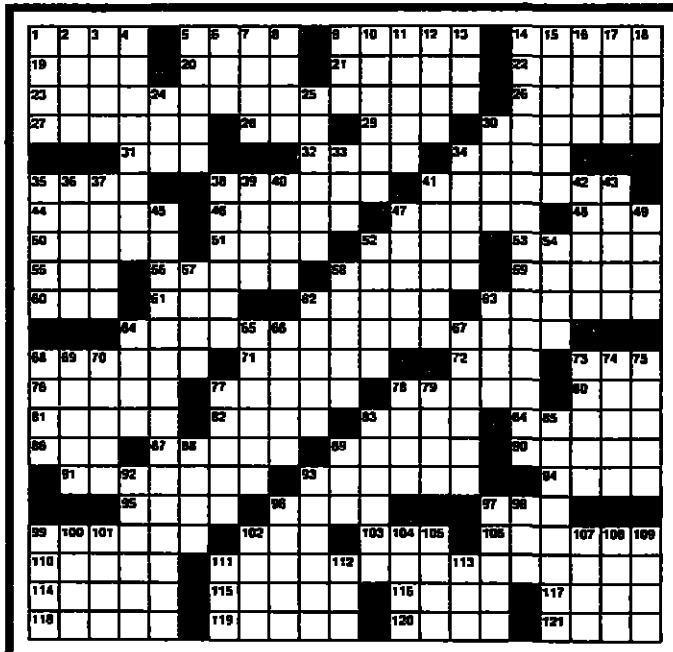
DOWN  
1. Race on engine  
2. Esopet's name  
3. Pear variety  
4. Long poem  
5. Admire  
6. Dressed  
7. Elina's output  
8. Discharge  
9. Walk through water  
15. Kind of pool or home  
16. Complain

44. John or Bonnie  
45. Essential  
47. Graph  
48. Treble  
50. Covered with  
51. Wriggles  
52. Farm building  
53. Hawaiian veranda  
55. Asian holiday  
56. Body of people  
57. Harem room  
58. Excellence  
59. Make corrections  
60. Harem room  
61. Freudian word  
62. Antelope with spiral horns  
63. Former TV sitcom  
66. Across Lauren

18. Fornicary dwellers  
24. Unhook to points  
25. Panting to length  
30. Scotch  
31. — the King's Men  
34. Sing in a monochord  
35. Muse of poetry  
36. Sound like a crow  
37. Vaquero's rope  
38. Runs playright  
39. "The — of human kindness"  
40. School org.  
41. Alter  
42. Sea eagles  
43. Responsible  
45. Two in a children's tale

24. Wriggles part  
27. Kellin or De Palma  
28. Perforations  
30. Worldwide relief  
31. —  
34. Cakes  
35. Patterned fabric  
36. Responsibility  
37. Flowers  
39. Ebb and neap

17. Gumbo  
20. Nonesential things  
22. Wriggles  
23. Tobacco Nln  
24. Oh, woe!  
25. — Miserables  
26. Makes inquiry  
27. Wide  
28. The underworld  
29. Torture  
30. Secret

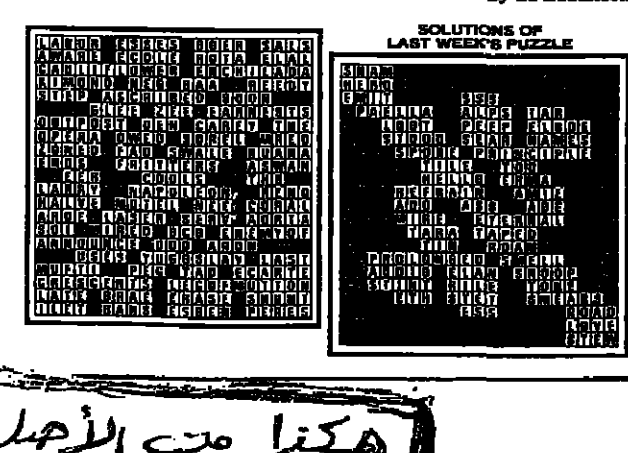


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Genuine success often comes to a person who will master the misapprehension of his will.
2. Computers now eliminate broad line of functions of telephone switchboard operators.
3. Earth Day slogan studied: Once is not enough. Recycle!
4. Free-lance journalist journeys yearly to historic chateau for short sojourn.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DUAL HEOC YQLKO UADY DEEP, CRPAD  
SR DYIAT ELI CYQTIK BAMOMPI ALDE  
DUE SLAMOPIC. —By Lois R. Jones
2. XBTMOQVR RCDQZ VFQ VCJMQ GTU  
XBMUG CBFOZM EC HGDJRR QCATOZ  
CBFOZDEFO FE HTBHDU ACC. —By Philip Brennan
3. FWBD CDHPEDKQ BKT AJP KDEHS CWLYQ  
JH YES TWED AWBL SBJFCQ W  
FWBHEHS. —By Earl Ireland
4. NOXNYOS NOD ELTNP FAWN EYNN SACKZ  
NOT FN DUKXP OSUKZ CKXNY LK NOW  
EYNN. —By Ed Huddleston



## Heart attack risk high in some people with normal cholesterol level

NEW YORK (AP) — People with normal cholesterol levels and high amounts of blood fats may be four times as likely as others to suffer a heart attack, and could be wrongly given a clean bill of health, researchers say.

Researchers said that many doctors do not understand the significance of elevated levels of the blood fats called triglycerides. As a result, many people with normal

cholesterol levels are not identified as having special risks.

Nevertheless, the study found that these people should be identified and treated. "This population had the greatest risk and the greatest benefit," said the study's director, M. Heikki Frick of the Helsinki University Central Hospital in Finland.

People whose total level of

blood cholesterol contained a high proportion of so-called "bad cholesterol" and who had high triglyceride levels were 3.8 times as likely as others to have a heart attack, Dr. Frick said in a recent telephone interview.

This is true even in people whose total cholesterol is normal or only slightly elevated, he said. The study appears in January's issue of *Circulation*, published by the

American Heart Association. The study also showed that the heart attack risk could be cut 71 per cent by lowering triglyceride levels and raising the levels of "good cholesterol," otherwise known as high-density lipoproteins, or HDLs.

The improvement can be accomplished by losing weight and exercise or by drugs. The study used a drug called Gemfibrozil.

## Mental patients run own radio show

By Stan Lehman  
The Associated Press

SANTOS, Brazil — Carlos Alberto Pereira fiddled with his black baseball cap and said softly into the microphone: "Listen to the words of madmen and prophets and recover your mind."

The "madmen" are disc jockey Pereira and everyone else who works on Tam Tam Radio, an entertainment and therapy programme run by and for the mentally ill. Tam Tam is Brazilian slang for crazy.

Renato Di Renzo, coordinator of the project, said the show helps integrate patients into society.

"By using their creativity to do something they feel is useful, they develop a sense of status and of belonging to a society that has always shunned them or locked them away in asylums," he said in an interview.

"At the same time, it helps so-called sane society accept these people as productive human beings and not as a bunch of loonies."

The daily 30-minute prog-

ramme offers rock 'n' roll, humour, skits and interviews. It is broadcast on Radio Clube De Santos, a station owned by Pele, the former soccer star.

On this day, Pereira opened it by declaring cheerfully: "This is Tam Tam Radio, a programme the size of your own madness, a programme with no harmful side effects."

He then interviewed a foreign journalist, asking the visitor how it felt to be a "star among madmen."

Pereira, 29, keeps the tone light with skits that poke fun at Brazilian personalities, tongue-in-cheek comments on issues like pollution and transportation, and information on cultural events.

His goal, he explained, is "to combine madness with lucidity and create a new form of insanity based on happiness, creativity and irreverence. This is how we try to show society that the boundaries between insanity and sanity are hazy."

Di Renzo said the programme is very popular, but that he did not have audience

figures. During one daily show, 20 people telephoned to say how much they enjoyed it.

Yvette Piha, a psychology professor at the University of Sao Paulo, said the Tam Tam Project, of which the show is a part, "tries to erase the stereotypes of sanity and insanity while offering society an opportunity to deal with its own fears towards the insane."

The project began in 1989 when Mayor Telma De Souza investigated hundreds of complaints about the Anchieta Health Centres, the main asylum for the mentally ill in Santos, a city of 500,000.

Di Renzo said Anchieta was built in the 1950s as a modern treatment centre, but had become a "veritable house of horrors."

"Patients were mistreated, locked up in isolation cells, given electric shocks and injected with tranquilisers," he said.

Tam Tam, developed by Di Renzo and a team of 18 psychologists and volunteers, changed all that.

The city government built

several therapy centres where mental patients can be treated while living at home.

Only 100 of the 700 patients who packed Anchieta two years ago remain there, and they will leave when enough treatment centres are ready. The old asylum has been re-created as an arts and crafts school.

Patients who remain at Anchieta "are encouraged to abandon their passivity and play an active role in their treatment," Di Renzo said.

They produce bracelets and necklaces from scrap wood, metal and plastic. Paint colourful, original greeting cards and T-shirts for sale in many of the city's better boutiques, and present plays based on their experiences.

Half the money from product sales goes to the patients and the rest is used to buy paints and other materials.

"With a bit of humanity and by helping them express their creativity, their fears, hopes and frustrations," Di Renzo said, the mentally ill "learn to deal with their insanity in a productive way."



## Moscow hopes parties will attend

(Continued from page 1)

Egypt is attending the Jan. 28 multilateral Mideast peace talks in Moscow which will discuss issues like water, the environment and nuclear weapons in the region.

Mr. Moussa flew to Damascus to try and convince the Syrians to attend but failed in his mission. The Syrians have said they will not attend the multilateral talks because there has been no progress in the three rounds of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks.

### Israel presents ideas

Israel meanwhile has given the United States and Russia proposals on Middle East regional issues to be discussed at the Moscow conference, a senior government official said on Wednesday. "We have already given papers to concerned countries with ideas

on the four topics for discussion — to the United States and Russia," Yosef Hadas, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry told a news conference.

He added Israeli experts had ideas for regional cooperation on water, the environment, arms control and economic development.

Mr. Hadas said the conference starting would split into working committees but they would focus on procedure rather than substance.

"The substantial negotiations will have to wait... we will set up dates and venues for working groups in the future," he told reporters, adding Israel would not demand future meetings take place in the Middle East.

Mr. Hadas said the Palestinians should be in a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

He also said the problem of refugees, a Palestinian concern,

was not on the agenda and ruled out discussion of water in the occupied West Bank.

"All problems of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are going to be discussed in bilateral talks. In multilateral negotiations they have no place," he told reporters.

In Jerusalem, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, just back from Amman, ruled out a decision on Palestinian participation before the weekend and accused the Israelis of attempting to impose their agenda on the conference.

"They are unilaterally trying to impose their will," Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters after hearing Hadas's comments on the agenda and Palestinian representation. "It is incredible, the arrogance is incredible."

Dr. Ashrawi said the PLO in Tunis and local Palestinians were discussing whether to take part. Among items under discussion with U.S. officials, she said, was the nature of the Palestinian delegation.

## Fate of Soviet nuclear stockpile worries the West

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

LONDON — The collapse of the Soviet Union has raised a spectre of its old nuclear warheads being peddled around the world, and its redundant scientists selling their atomic bomb-making skills to power-mad dictators abroad.

It all sounds alarming and Western officials are rushing to the new Commonwealth of Independent States to try to stop it happening. But many experts believe the fears, though not to be dismissed, have been exaggerated.

The problem lies with the estimated 27,000 strategic and tactical nuclear weapons — many of them due to be dismantled under disarmament accords — that have been left on former Soviet territory by a 40-year arms race with the United States.

The stockpile is divided between at least four newly separate countries — Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, and possibly others. Meanwhile, the end of the military-dominated planned economy has left thousands of scientists short of work.

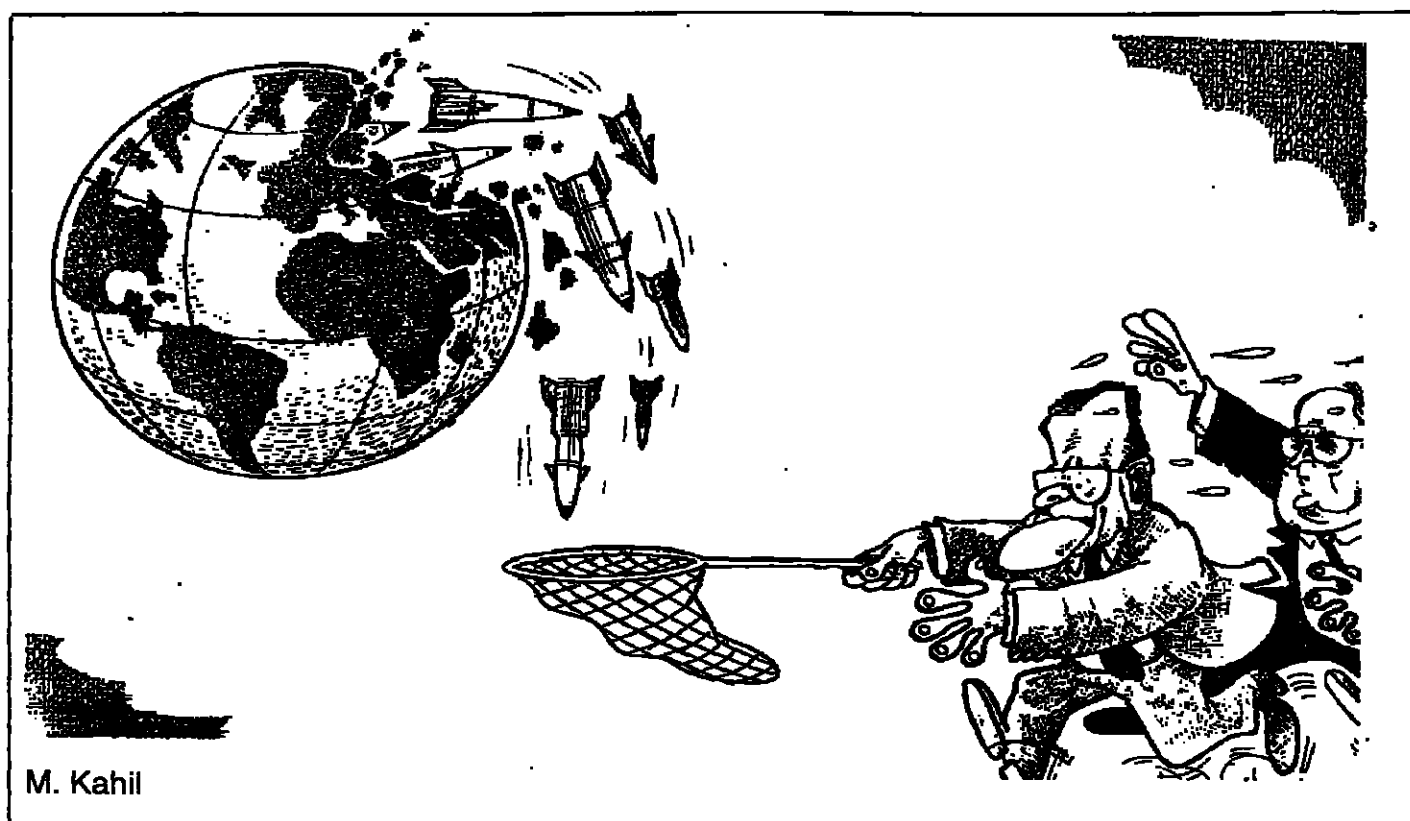
Western experts are talking about how best to help the Commonwealth transport, store and dispose of nuclear weapons and keep the country's nuclear technicians in gainful employment.

Washington, which has set aside \$400 million to help demolish Soviet warheads, has sent a team led by Under-Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew to the Commonwealth to discuss keeping weapons safe and ensuring they are not exported.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is also touring key Commonwealth states to seek similar assurances.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev pledged on Saturday to aid Kazakhstan of nuclear weapons and said he was committed to preventing the spread of nuclear arms and technology.

Mr. Nazarbayev told reporters after meeting Mr. Hurd in Alma-Ata that he was ready to sign all the treaties on nuclear arms the Soviet Union had signed, which



M. Kahil

included the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The issue is expected to come up again at a U.N. Security Council summit on Jan. 31 attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Western officials are hoping the problems will soon be confined to Russia. Besides Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus have said they wish to get rid of the nuclear weapons on their territory, possibly as early as this year.

But, analysts say, it depends how sincere the republics are in these statements, and how far they are willing to see the nuclear arms on their soil repatriated to Russia. Already there have been disputes in Ukraine on the issue.

Even if the warheads are all stockpiled in Russia, how secure are they then? The general lack of funds in the Commonwealth and low morale among troops could affect their safe storage, some officials argue.

"There is an increasing danger of a leak of radioactive plutonium because the methods of trans-

port and storage are inadequate,"

Vitaly Shlykov, deputy chairman of Russia's Defence Committee, said in a British newspaper interview last week.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Friday it had written to Mr. Yeltsin offering to help handle nuclear material from dismantled weapons if this is transferred to the civilian sector.

When it comes to the smuggling abroad of warheads or parts of them, experts say the risk depends on the reliability of the Commonwealth's means of accounting for its nuclear weapons, a system which is at its weakest when the arms are in transit.

But the IAEA says it is not alarmed. "We've seen no firm evidence of material leaving the former Soviet Union without authorisation, except in trivial amounts," the U.N. agency's spokesman David Kyd said.

Italian police last October seized four grammes of plutonium which a Swiss businessman

was trying to sell. Officials of the IAEA, which helps to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, say they have received reports of foreign arms buyers "shopping around" in the Commonwealth's southern states but that they are focusing on conventional weapons.

Perhaps the greatest threat could be a leakage of badly paid or out-of-work former Soviet nuclear experts to Middle Eastern or other countries trying to develop nuclear arms.

Western press reports have spoken of secret Soviet cities where hundreds of thousands of people once worked on producing nuclear weapons but now face no future.

Experts say the risks here are long-term. "There is a danger of leakage in the coming years, but they're not queuing at railway stations right now," Mr. Kyd said.

John Simpson of the international programme for promoting nuclear non-proliferation also took a relaxed view.

"Nations do not tend to put too much trust in citizens who are not their own," he said. "What you do is have a national programme and have foreign nationals as consultants."

Libya recently denied a U.S. press report quoting a senior scientist at the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy in Moscow as saying Tripoli had offered jobs to two of his colleagues.

One Western nuclear expert, who asked not to be identified, said both East and West could be exaggerating the problem. "The scientists are seeing if their lifestyle can be maintained, while the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) had an interest in identifying problems that need watching," he said.

Nevertheless, Western countries are concerned and German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called this month for a worldwide pact to block former Soviet nuclear engineers from helping Third World states build up atomic arsenals.

## Committee urges Arabs to block deportations

(Continued from page 1)

and homes for not carrying an identity card issued by the occupying authority immediately after the 1967 war.

In a press statement released to journalists, the Palestinian Deportees Committee said the Arab governments' denial of entry to the deportees was "necessary to stand up to the deportation policy and to develop it into an international live question that puts the U.N. face to face with its responsibilities."

Deported Bir Zeit University President Hanna Nasir told the press conference that the Arab countries' refusal to accept the deportees was the "only method to stop the deportation activity from its roots."

"We have the power in our hands to ask the Arab countries to refuse their entry, to immediately hand them over to the ICRC so that they return to the occupied territories," said Dr. Nasir. "It may be exhausting to the people in the beginning — coming and going for a number of days — but in the end, the person returns home."

Mr. Bakr said that when Israel "throws" the deported Palestinian in a certain area, demonstrators and protestors should go to these areas and extend moral support for the deportees until the ICRC takes over.

He noted that when the Jordanian refused to accept deportees over the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges a number of years back, the Israelis stopped deporting Palestinians through these points. However, the Israeli authorities started "to dump" deportees in the Jordanian desert of Wadi Araba and in south Lebanon.

"If we succeeded in refusing to take in deportees at the bridges, then we should also close the other points of deportations, including Lebanon," Mr. Bakr stressed, adding that Syria and Egypt could also be used by the Israelis as deportation points.

He recalled that Jordan at the time felt uneasy about denying deportees entry through bridges, but said that stopping the deportations was more important than any (government's) embarrassment or pain the deportee may face.

"The important thing is to

frustrate the Israeli policy of deportation," Mr. Bakr asserted.

He noted that the Israeli government was using the British mandate's emergency laws that were in effect before the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948 to deport Palestinians it claims to be a security threat to Israel, but that the British had cancelled these laws before they left Palestine.

Mr. Bakr also said that the British used to expel the Palestinian leaders to countries under British control at the time and had taken responsibility for their well-being and livelihood. "But Israel doesn't do that; it (treats) these neighbouring Arab countries as if (they) were under its own authority and control."

The Palestinian Deportees Committee's statement said that Israel had resorted to deportations "with the purpose of depriving the Palestinians under occupation of their political, social, educational, trade union and religious leaders."

The committee warned of new forms of deportations being considered by the Israeli authorities, including temporary expulsions for a number of years. Currently, the Israeli authorities force young people under the age of 26, who leave the occupied territories for medical treatment, education or work to sign an undertaking not to return to their homes before three to five years, stay abroad.

The committee also called on the U.N. secretary-general and permanent members of the Security Council to "uphold their responsibilities vis-a-vis the implementation of Security Council Resolution 726 to secure the safe and immediate return of all the deportees."

The deportees also demanded that if Israel did not comply with the resolution, to "take the appropriate sanctions against Israel to make it comply with international legitimacy."

Waleed Mustafa, also a deportee, said that the Arab countries should take advantage of Security Council Resolution 726 to prevent Israel from deportations.

"If Israel did not comply with the resolution," Dr. Mustafa said, "then the Arab countries have every right to call for sanctions against Israel to stop this activity."

## Deputies call

(Continued from page 1)

The Algerian army, under orders from the government, has kept patrol in all parts of Algeria after Islamists gained majority control of the Algerian parliament in the first round of parliamentary elections last month. A state council composed of exiled leaders and military chiefs was installed to prevent the Islamists from taking control of the country to the outrage of democratic movements in Algeria including those which oppose the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

## Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

This, Mr. Arafat said, reflected the strong Jordanian-Palestinian relations which "we are proud of."

Mr. Arafat stressed that close coordination existed between the Jordanian and Palestinian leadership, and voiced his pride in having a unique relationship with His Majesty King Hussein. He thanked the King for his constructive positions, that have contributed to the joint Arab position, which was demonstrated prior to and after Security Council resolution 726 that condemned Israel for its deportation of Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat stressed the Palestinian leadership's resolve not to intervene in Jordanian internal affairs. "We want the Jordanian people to continue to be a friend, a supporter and partner in making the future for the Palestinians," he said.

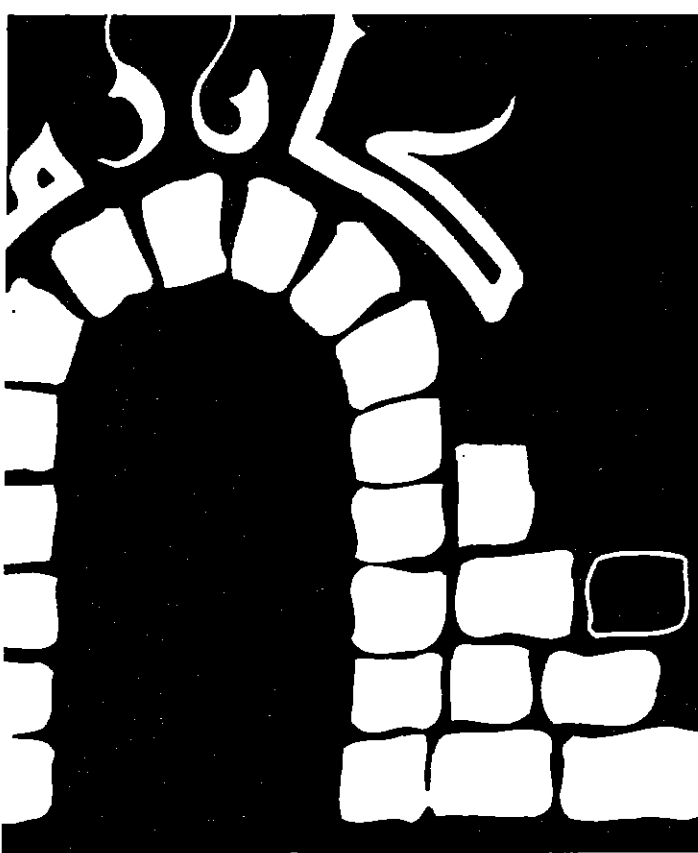
## Majali

(Continued from page 1)

Israel. However, the American perspective has now changed, Dr. Majali said, and the U.S. administration cannot continue granting loans to Israel to build further settlements, particularly in the occupied Arab territories.

He added that the U.S. strongly condemned the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Anyhow, the U.S. has other political and economic means that it can make use of to stop Israel building of settlements.

Asked to evaluate the peace process so far, Dr. Majali said the Madrid conference on Oct. 30 succeeded in highlighting the Palestine problem and bringing it to the attention of the whole world.



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## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.8050	1.8045
Deutsche Mark	1.5885	1.5878
Swiss Franc	1.4060	1.4065
French Franc	5.4085	5.4090
Japanese Yen	123.60	123.34
European Currency Unit	1.2850	1.2866

USD Per STG  
\*\* European Opening for 8:45 a.m. GMT

Source: Reuters

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.00	4.06	4.31
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.43	10.31	10.18
Deutsche Mark	9.43	9.44	9.25	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.62	7.56	7.57
French Franc	9.87	9.69	9.68	9.37
Japanese Yen	5.25	4.93	4.65	4.62
European Currency Unit	10.28	10.21	10.06	10.84

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.75	6.45	Silver	4.25

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6760	0.6780
Sterling Pound	1.2182	1.2243
Deutsche Mark	0.4250	0.4274
Swiss Franc	0.4799	0.4823
French Franc	0.1248	0.1254
Japanese Yen	0.5477	0.5504
Dutch Guilder	0.3777	0.3796
Swedish Krona	0.1169	0.1175
Italian Lira	0.0565	0.0568
Belgian Franc	0.02066	0.02076

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7640	1.7720
Lebanese Lira	0.0769	0.0773
Saudi Riyal	0.1799	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1831	0.1844
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7410
UAE Dirham	0.1831	0.1844
Greek Drachma	0.3650	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.485	1.5010

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	21/1/1992 Close	20/1/1992 Close
All-Share	135.18	135.40
Banking Sector	109.66	109.74
Insurance Sector	131.41	131.49
Industry Sector	167.77	168.13
Services Sector	149.67	150.65

December 31, 1990 - 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8060/70	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1538/43	Canadian dollar
	1.5865/75	Deutsche marks
	1.7855/65	Dutch guilders
	1.4045/52	Swiss francs
	32.67/71	Belgian francs
	5.4060/41.10	French francs
	119.2/119.3	Italian lire
	123.35/45	Japanese yen
	5.7700/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2300/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.1500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	356.70/357.20	U.S. dollars

## Oil prices plunge after Saudis make token reduction in output

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices fell sharply Tuesday, as traders decided a production cut by OPEC superpower Saudi Arabia was too small to stop a looming petroleum glut.

Light sweet crude oil for delivery in February settled at \$18.47 per barrel, down 42 cents, at the New York Mercantile Exchange. The price had fallen 27 cents a barrel Monday, even though Iran and Algeria cut production by a total of 70,000 barrels a day.

The Saudis said Tuesday they would cut production by 100,000 barrels, creating a modest buying spree on the London oil market that faded by the time New York traders were in business. Prices then moved lower.

The cut by the Saudis followed several similar moves by other OPEC members trying to prop up sinking prices. The Saudi cut was the biggest so far but proportionately the smallest because the Saudi output, at some 8.4 million barrels a day, makes up more than a third of the group's

total. "It's a very weak signal — maybe it's just something to appease OPEC," said Victor Yu, vice president of futures at the Nihkah Energy Group of Refco Inc. "Other members have cut anywhere from three per cent to 10 per cent, and here the Saudis, with the largest output, cut one per cent. It is truly a token amount."

Analysts said the Saudis may have announced a cut to avoid being ostracised by the rest of OPEC, but they said the cuts were so small they could have been accomplished by shutting down wells for needed maintenance.

Oil prices had been in a steady decline since October, losing more than \$5 per barrel. The slide stopped on Jan. 10, when Venezuela announced it was voluntarily cutting production by 50,000 barrels a day, more than a month in advance of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting

Countries meeting Feb. 12 in Geneva.

Price rallied briefly, but as other OPEC members lined up to make cuts, traders began sensing the group was not doing enough. Seven of the group members have now promised reductions totalling 340,000 barrels a day.

Once Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, joined in with its cut, traders decided supplies were still far ahead of demand.

In addition to crude, prices for refined petroleum products also got hammered.

Home heating oil for delivery in February settled at 53.28 cents a gallon, down 1.21 cents. Unleaded gasoline for delivery in February settled at 53.00 cents a gallon, down 1.18 cents. One gallon equals 3.8 litre.

In London, North Sea Brent blend crude oil for delivery in March settled at \$17.75 per barrel, down 26 cents, at the International Petroleum Exchange.

## Citicorp reports \$457m loss

NEW YORK (AP) — Citicorp reported a \$133 million loss Tuesday for the fourth quarter as the nation's largest banking company continues to wrestle with problem loans and an ambitious corporate restructuring.

The results were in line with projections last week by Chairman John Reed.

For the final three months of 1991, Citicorp lost 53 cents a share after taking a hit of \$654 million after writing down foreclosed real estate and charging off delinquent commercial loans.

It lost \$382 million or \$1.26 a share for the October-December period in 1990.

For the year, Citicorp said it lost \$457 million, or \$1.89 a share, against earnings of \$458 million or 99 cents a share in 1990.

In another development, Mr. Reed announced the bank added to its management team the former finance minister for the Netherlands, Onno Ruding, 52.

Mr. Reed, finance minister from 1982 to 1989, will serve as vice chairman for international corporate finance. He has been a Citicorp director since 1990.

"I know the challenges facing Citicorp and I believe we see evidence that John Reed's plan to address those challenges is on the road to succeeding," said Mr. Ruding.

The bank reported \$9.73 billion in total delinquent commercial loans and foreclosed real estate for the fourth quarter, down from \$9.96 billion in the comparable period in 1990.

Total operating expenses fell by 17 per cent in the fourth quarter to \$2.65 billion. For the year, expenses were flat at \$11.09 billion. Citicorp said it trimmed its staff by 9,000 in 1991, with 86,000 on the payroll at year-end.

The bank's tier 1 ratio of risky loans and assets to capital was at 3.70 per cent at the end of 1991. The ratio, an important measure of a bank's ability to absorb loan and operating losses, fell short of the four per cent level that will be

required by under new international banking laws at the end of 1992.

Mr. Reed said in an interview last week the ratio will be above four per cent by the end of this year.

Last year, Citicorp raised about \$1.5 billion in fresh capital from a variety of deals, including a private placement of stock with a Saudi prince.

It has sold a range of interests, from subsidiaries that offer municipal bond insurance to its Italian retail bank and a share of its stake in the Saudi American Bank.

Frank Suozzo, bank analyst for S.G. Warburg and Co., said he believes Citicorp is repairing itself. He compared the bank to BankAmerica Corp. in 1986, when it underwent a grueling overhaul. BankAmerica now is one of the nation's strongest banks.

"In terms of progress, Citicorp has made, I think, excellent advances in terms of expense control," said Mr. Suozzo.

## Figures on household savings, consumer debt in Britain show starkest changes in past 10 years

LONDON (R) — Britons spent their way into the current economic recession with abandon, government figures show.

The 1992 Social Trends report, an official guide to the changing face of British society, illustrates how the nation's 57 million citizens joined a U.S.-led stampede into consumer debt in the mid-1980s.

Statistics from the 250-page compendium, issued by the Central Statistical Office, showed the

amount of outstanding consumer debt more than doubled between 1981 and 1990 to well over £50 billion (\$90 billion).

Personal savings plunged during the same period to the extent that from 1986, at the height of the consumer credit boom, total household spending exceeded disposable income.

The findings contain echoes of another chronicler of hard times in Britain, Victorian author Charles Dickens, whose cautious

character Mr. Micawber describes living beyond one's means in the novel David Copperfield.

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery," Mr. Micawber says.

## Japanese spending on research hits record \$100 billion

TOKYO (AP) — Japan ranked second after the United States in fiscal 1990 in total spending for research on science and technology, a government report has said.

The Management and Coordination Agency said Japan's research outlays totalled 13.08 trillion yen (\$101.38 billion) in the fiscal year, which ended March 31. It was up 10.7 per cent over the previous year, and accounted for 2.99 per cent of Japan's gross national product.

The amount was the second largest for any country. The United States spent \$168.37 billion for research on science and technology, the agency said in its annual report.

Corporate spending accounted for 9.27 trillion yen (\$71.84 billion), or 70.86 per cent, of the total outlays, it said.

The report was based on a survey of 12,700 corporations, 1,500 research institutes and organisations, and 2,200 universities and colleges across Japan.

## Iranian tea crop edges up

NICOSIA (R) — Iran produced 196,000 tonnes of green tea leaves last year, 4,600 tonnes more than in 1990, Tehran radio has said.

The crop, raised in 36,000 hectares (92,000 acres) in highlands near the Caspian Sea, yielded 45,000 tonnes of dried tea, it said.

The government, which has a monopoly on the wholesale tea trade, paid Iran's 28,000 tea farmers 62.8 million riyals (\$38 million at the open market rate) for the crop, it added.

Iran's 57.8 million people consume about 80,000 tonnes of tea each year.

## Colombia reduces foreign debt

BOGOTA (AP) — Colombia reduced its foreign debt by \$556 million to \$17 billion in 1991, the finance ministry has reported.

It was the second time in 17 years that the country managed to cut its foreign debt, according to a ministry report published in local newspapers. The report said the reduction from the 1990 level resulted from an increase in debt payments and a decrease in state borrowing.

## Sudan to privatise telecoms, airline and shipping lines

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan is to sell its airline, telecommunications company and shipping lines to local and foreign investors as part of efforts to reform its economy.

Industry Minister Taj Al Sir Mustafa said the World Bank had agreed to send experts to help with the privatisations.

He said the sell-offs were part of the government's three-year reform programme that aims to breathe new life into the economy through lifting of subsidies, price liberalisation, currency reforms and privatisation.

Mr. Mustafa said Sudan had formed a partnership with South Korea's Daewoo Group, which will fund the completion of the weaving industry in eastern Sudan, overhaul of the tanneries in central Sudan and the modernisation of the Friendship Palace Hotel in Khartoum.

He said a joint company will be set up by March. A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been in Sudan since Thursday, examining the progress of reforms.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said they had met Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi.

General Bashir said that despite external political and economic pressures he was keen to press ahead with reforms and develop ties with the IMF.

Mr. Hamdi said the IMF delegation praised Sudan's efforts to reform its economy and said it was ready to support it.

The IMF declared Sudan bankrupt in 1986 and opened the way for its possible expulsion in 1990 by declaring it uncooperative.

Meanwhile, the finance ministry has told the various government departments they will receive no extra subsidies after June 30 and must balance their budgets.

## N. Zealand posts lowest inflation rate in the world

WELLINGTON (R) — Prime Minister Jim Bolger has hailed inflation figures which showed New Zealand had the world's lowest inflation rate, but critics said it may only indicate how depressed the economy is.

"This is obviously tremendous news," a jubilant Bolger said of the 0.1 per cent fall in December quarter consumer prices.

The consumer price index (CPI) rose just 1.0 per cent in 1991, the lowest rise since September 1960.

However Infometrics Economist Andrew Gawith took a more sombre view of the data: "It indicates how depressed the economy is," he said. "Disinflation has almost gone a step too far and it has almost created an automatic deflation," he said.

The Central Reserve Bank (CRB), legally bound to cut inflation to zero-two per cent by December 1993, appears to have won the battle two years early. In 1987 the annual inflation rate was over 18 per cent.

The manufacturers federation welcomed the figure but echoed many New Zealanders' thoughts when it said: "But it needs to be borne in mind that the ultra low level has only been achieved at considerable cost in the form of a domestic economy that has been in recession for an extended period of time with the loss of

thousands of jobs. Unemployment is at record levels of over 10 per cent and projected by the RB to rise over 15 per cent in 1993.

The manufacturers led the calls for the RB to ease monetary policy to boost the economy. But the RB said that increased government charges and imported inflation from the 10 per cent fall in the New Zealand dollar in the last part of 1991 would see inflation remain within its 1.5-3.5 per cent target band for 1992.

"It should then drop into the 0.2-0.8 per cent target range next year," Governor Don Brash said.

Infometrics' Gawith said disinflation is so strong that consumers are not buying as they can see prices falling further in the future and people are scared about their jobs.

"Those conditions actually lead into depression. If you push deflation too far, you will create a depression. You scare the living daylight out of everyone."

However, he and other economists see little point in the RB easing monetary policy as it is already running a relatively loose regime.

"Monetary policy is now relatively impotent in terms of trying to stimulate activity. No one wants to spend irrespective of how cheap interest rates are," he said.

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**The closing date for submission of tenders is 12:00 hours local time Saturday 7th, March, 1992.**

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## Shevardnadze aide suggests Russian Republic could break up

GENEVA (R) — A one-time senior aide to former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has suggested the Russian Federation could break up into competing fiefdoms, with Muslim areas linking up with new Central Asian states.

Vladimir Fedorovsky, spokesman of the Liberal Democratic Reform Movement during last year's failed Kremlin coup, predicted the possible emergency of a Pan-Turkic Federation across large parts of the defunct Soviet Union.

"The idea of the disintegration of Russia is now well and truly a topic of discussion," Mr. Fedorovsky wrote in an article published Wednesday in the Swiss French-language daily *Nouvelles Quotidiennes*.

He suggested that following the collapse and break-up of the Soviet Union itself at the end of last month, the vast Russian Federation which stretches from the Baltic to the Pacific and is populated by a myriad of ethnic groups could be next.

"The second Russian revolution has not only sounded the knell for the union. This is also a point of no-return for the disintegration of Russia itself," said Mr. Fedorovsky, who supported Boris Yeltsin in resisting the Au-

gust coup. Mr. Yeltsin is the elected president of the federation, which covers over 76 per cent of the territory of the former unified Soviet states and has a population of some 150 million.

Some 83 per cent of these are Russians but there are 38 national minorities who in some regions form a majority. Many analysts say even Russians in the Far East have little in common with their countrymen in the European part of the federation.

Mr. Fedorovsky said amid the fuss about the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) — which formally links 11 former Soviet republics including Russia — other key developments had gone little noticed.

Among these, he said, was a "Pan-Turkic Assembly" in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata which was attended by representatives of several so-called autonomous republics within the federation and the Turkic-speaking Central Asian republics.

These are Kazakhstan itself, Turkmenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, a fifth, Tajikistan, is populated largely by people speaking a language closely related to the Farsi spoken in Iran.

Within the Russian Federation,

the native peoples of Tatarstan on the Volga and its neighbour Bashkirtia speak a Turkic language and in the early 1920s were prominent in trying to establish a pan-Turkic Communist state.

Mr. Fedorovsky said the decision to create a coordinating council for Turkic regions had already been taken and quoted an official of Kazakhstan's opposition National Democratic Party as saying it was the only way to defend Turkic peoples' interests.

Other regional groupings under discussion included a "community of the two seas" linking the now totally independent Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia with Belarus and Ukraine, which has a large Black Sea coastline, Mr. Fedorovsky said.

"This would be without Russia," he said.

He said the disintegration process could be slowed down if republics that signed the Commonwealth deal in Minsk in December put into effect their accord on a joint military command and also showed "a minimum of coherence" in economic policy.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Tuesday that Russia and Ukraine could resolve their differences within the new

Commonwealth and vowed that the two Slav giants would never fight each other.

"I think that in both Ukraine and Russia common sense will prevail. I refuse to believe that Ukrainians and Russians could take up arms against each other," Mr. Kravchuk said in an interview with French television and newspaper journalists.

"They are people who have much common history. Their roots are intertwined... the highest task of the leaders of Ukraine and Russia is not to allow conflict, to prevent normal discussion from turning into confrontation," he said.

Tensions between the two neighbours have mounted since the breakup of the Soviet Union last month, with Kiev and Moscow at loggerheads over control of the Black Sea Fleet and squabbling over the timing of their respective economic reform.

"We are accumulating a set of acute problems and there is no need, just because they are acute, to jump conclusions that the Commonwealth is not viable," Mr. Kravchuk said.

But he repeated earlier warnings that the Commonwealth of Independent States would not last long if members tried to renege on earlier commitments.

## Bush urges strong world response to CIS

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush opened an international conference on aid to the former Soviet Union Wednesday, saying the struggling new states would depend heavily on world support at "a turning point in modern history."

"We come together... as partners at a historic time, a turning point in our century and, I think, in modern history," Mr. Bush said in opening a two-day conference of 47 nations and seven international organisations on coordinating aid to the former Soviet state.

"Our mission is to respond together to the dramatic revolution that swept away Soviet communism and left in its place 12 new nations moving to establish their place in the world and struggling with the critical task of feeding, clothing and housing their people this winter, this spring (and beyond)."

The conference has been marked in advance by friction between the United States and European allies who feel Washington has not given its fair share to the effort to shore up the emerging ex-Soviet republics.

Mr. Bush addressed that complaint indirectly, saying, "I am proposing Congress approve over \$600 million for new technical assistance and humanitarian efforts."

He said this would raise total U.S. aid commitments to more than \$5 billion.

The president cautioned against getting into arguments over who was doing the most for the former Soviet states.

"Let us (work) constructively in a spirit of partnership, avoiding sterile debates over which one of us has done the most or the least and which should lead our response to this historic challenge," he said.

He also said the collapse of the Soviet Union had all but obliterated the global nuclear war.

But he said the emerging former Soviet republics faced formidable challenges in their efforts to shift to democracy and free-market economies, first among them the immediate challenge of



George Bush

hunger and economic chaos.

"We should not underestimate the enormity of this challenge," he said. "The battle is really theirs to win. They cannot win it alone... Let us work together to give these people a reason to hope."

U.S. organisers of the conference said the main objective was not to drum up new aid but to coordinate existing aid and ensure that patchwork assistance flowing in from around the globe was used effectively.

The meeting, scheduled to run Wednesday and Thursday at the State Department, brought together hundreds of foreign ministers, other government officials and representatives of official international financial and diplomatic organisations.

Meanwhile officials said in Brussels that NATO will offer to put its military machinery to work coordinating the flow of trains, ships and trucks filled with food and medical aid to the former Soviet republics, officials said.

The allies were expected to propose at a Soviet aid conference in Washington that NATO become the transportation clearinghouse for assistance bound to the nations emerging after the demise of the Soviet Union.

Manfred Woerner, secretary-general of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), was taking part in the conference, which brought together foreign ministers from 47 nations to discuss ways to help.

## Red Cross runs out of food for Cambodian refugees

KOMPONG THOM, Cambodia (AP) — More than 10,000 refugees fleeing daily artillery duels between government forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas are massed along a highway in dire need of food and assistance.

The Cambodian Red Cross delivered more than 100 tonnes of rice Tuesday, but stocks ran out and several thousand refugees were turned away empty-handed.

The battles in the central province of Kompong Thom over the past two weeks are the biggest in Cambodia since the government and the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla coalition signed a peace treaty in Paris in October.

Diplomats in Phnom Penh say the fighting underlines the im-

portance of quickly deploying the U.N. peacekeeping force mandated by the peace treaty.

The recently appointed head of the U.N. authority overseeing the peacekeepers, Yasushi Akashi of Japan, arrived in Phnom Penh Wednesday to begin the huge operation. Thousands of U.N. personnel and troops eventually are to be deployed, but because of budget, bureaucratic and other problems, only a few hundred personnel now are in place.

After meeting with Mr. Akashi, Cambodian national reconciliation leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said a few thousand U.N. peacekeeping troops are needed as soon as possible to restore the truce.

## Execution shows Cuba's 'real face' — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The execution of Eduardo Diaz Betancourt in Cuba shows the Fidel Castro regime's "real face" and betrays a fear of dissent, the U.S. government said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States condemns the Monday execution of Mr. Betancourt, who was captured in Cuba with two other Miami-based Cubans on Dec. 29. The government accused the three of planning a series of terrorist bombings.

Mr. Boucher noted that the two other exiles were given reduced sentences. "However, in none of the three cases was there serious due process," he said, adding that the U.S. government also deplored the arrest of some 60 human rights activists in Cuba over the last few months.

He said dissidents in Cuba have been the target of "government-sponsored mob violence, citing a mob attack on the home of prominent activists Elizardo and Gerardo Sanchez."

"The countries of the hemisphere and the world share our concern," Mr. Boucher said.

"With these actions the Cuban regime shows its true face. This pattern of brutality betrays the Cuban government's own fear of dissent," Mr. Boucher said.

The United States, Spain and numerous Latin leaders and cultural figures had issued calls for clemency in the commando case.

The other men — Daniel Santovenia Fernandez, 36, and Pedro de la Cardada Alvarez Pedros, 26 — were also sentenced to death, but their sentences were commuted to 30 years in prison on the grounds that they had grown up in Miami under the influence of anti-Castro exile groups.

The Council of State said Mr. Betancourt, 38, who fled Cuba nine months ago, deserved death because he had grown up in Cuba and then betrayed the revolution.

## 'Poison gas ban possible this year'

GENEVA (R) — A global ban on chemical weapon stocks should be possible this year despite division on how to enforce it, the new German chairman of U.N.-sponsored negotiations said Tuesday.

"The convention is clearly within reach this year," said German Ambassador Adolf Von Wagner, shortly after the 39-nation conference on disarmament elected him to preside over the long-standing negotiations.

Diplomats and government ministers have made similar optimistic pronouncements for several years, but Mr. Wagner insisted: "We know that our negotiations have reached a watershed. The final breakthrough is in sight."

He told a subsequent news conference that the war between Iraq and the allied coalition had convinced many delegations that chemical weapons were not the decisive, deterrent weapons as thought and states might be more ready to give them up.

Mr. Wagner also said that Washington's renunciation last May of the right to retaliate in kind against poison gas attacks and its decision not to insist on keeping stocks until enough states joined the convention had also improved the chances of success.

The treaty would ban the possession or development of chemical weapons, going further than the 1925 Geneva protocol which only forbade their use. That document was drafted after poison gas killed around 100,000 soldiers in World War I.

The current negotiations have been pursued since 1968. Prospects brightened considerably in 1987 when the then Soviet Union agreed to a U.S. demand that each country agree to intrusive challenge inspections.

But the question of verifying adherence still poses a big obstacle. Other problems include what to do with former Soviet stocks, how to ensure that enough states sign up, how to protect legitimate industrial secrets during inspections and what restrictions should be allowed.

Mr. George Bush, when vice president under Ronald Reagan, proposed to the conference in Geneva in 1984 that inspectors be allowed to search any time and anywhere for violations of a future treaty.

Ironically, it is the United States under his presidency that has now raised reservations about intrusive inspections, having realised how easy it might be for a spy doubling as an inspector to discover other countries' military secrets.

The issue has pitted the United States along with Britain, Australia and Japan against France and several other Western European nations.

## Gay group again banned from parade

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of Irish homosexuals has been barred from this year's St. Patrick's Day parade because of "outrageous behaviour" last year, including alleged obscene gestures in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Irish Lesbian and Gay Organisation — which was banned last year but marched with another group — denied the allegations and accused the parade's organisers, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), of homophobia and discrimination. The dispute reignited a political controversy for Mayor David Dinkins, who last year passed up mayor's traditional spot in the parade to march with the homosexuals and was jeered and doused with beer along the route. After the Manhattan chapter of the Hibernians repeatedly refused to allow the gay group in the procession, Mr. Dinkins transferred the parade permit to the New York State Board of the AOH, citing feuding in the parade committee.

## Judge rejects guilty plea for obsessed fan

SANTA ANA, California (AP) — A federal judge rejected a guilty plea from a man accused of sending threatening and obscene letters to Olympic skater Katarina Witt. U.S. District Judge Gary Taylor said he was unable to determine if Hans Veltman III, who has a history of mental problems, understood his constitutional rights and was willing to relinquish them. He scheduled a March 10 trial for Veltman, 47, who was arrested on Dec. 26, the day before Miss Witt was to appear in a Los Angeles arena ice show. Mr. Veltman read a statement in which he said he wrote letters to Miss Witt were "erotic love letters" that weren't meant to be threatening or obscene. Judge Taylor then tried to question Mr. Veltman, but he refused to answer. Mr. Veltman allegedly has sent 60 letters to Miss Witt in her native Germany since July 1990, along with nude photographs of himself. If convicted, Mr. Veltman faces up to 35 years in prison.

## Los Angeles to give students condoms

LOS ANGELES (R) — Los Angeles will issue its school students with condoms as a precaution against AIDS, but will first ask their parents' permission. The city's school board, in a step that will be watched closely by other educational authorities narrowly approved a controversial plan to make condoms available to 132,000 senior high school students between the ages of 17 and 19.

## Woman with pet wolf wins howling contest

TRUCKEE, California (AP) — The contest was a howl and Debbie McMaster was the winner. She earned a trip for two to Mexico for producing the best call of the wild at the third annual Yukon Jack Championship Howl-Off. Ms. McMaster of Truckee has a pet wolf and has practiced howling with it for years, said contest organiser Tim Beeman. "You wouldn't have known it was a person if you didn't see her," he said. The howl lasted 30 seconds and had a lot of "texture and tone to it." She and her husband are gold miners and they communicate with each other in the outdoors by howling to let them know where they are, Mr. Beeman said. Georgia Lloyd of Truckee and Alex Hurlley of Tahoe City, California, finished second and third. There were 42 entrants. Truckee is about 30 miles west of Reno, Nevada.

## Youth writes three-kilometre letter to friend

KATMANDU (AP) — Setting out to write the world's longest letter, a Nepalese student has written a 10,315-page missive more than three kilometres long to a friend in India. Rajendra Chand Thakuri, 20, said his 42-kilogramme letter would measure three kilometres and 42 centimetres (2.13 miles) if the sheets were placed end to end. "I talked about the drug problem," said Thakuri when reached by telephone. He said the letter, which took five months to write, cost him \$170 in postage.

## Major wants April 9 general election

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major has told colleagues he wants to call the next British general election on April 9 after a tax-cutting budget is announced in early March, the *Financial Times* reported Wednesday.

It quoted unnamed senior government ministers as saying that Mr. Major hoped to use a March 14 speech in the south western city of Torquay before supporters of his governing Conservative Party to launch the election campaign.

But it said the ministers cautioned that an unexpected reversal of Conservative fortunes in opinion polls could force Mr. Major to delay calling the election until May 7.

By law, the next general election must be held by next July, but Mr. Major can call one any time before that if he wishes.

The *Financial Times* reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, was likely to announce a tax-cutting budget sometime before March 10.

The Conservatives and the Labour Party, the main opposition group in the 650-seat House of Commons, have been fiercely attacking each other's policies since late last year in the run-up to the election campaign.

The two parties are running virtually neck-and-neck in opinion polls, with centrist Liberal Democratic Party trailing third.

## Aquino reportedly favours Ramos

MANILA (AP) — President Corazon Aquino reportedly favours her former defence chief in the May 11 presidential elections, but opponents are mounting a last-ditch effort to press her into changing her mind.

Mrs. Aquino is expected to announce her favourite Saturday, her 59th birthday. Political sources say she is leaning towards former Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, who helped crush the seven coup attempts against her government since she took office in 1986.

However, members of the pro-administration struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party are urging her to support House Speaker Ramon Mitra.

Mr. Mitra beat Gen. Ramos in a straw vote of party members last Nov. 30. Gen. Ramos bolted the party and established his own organisation, the People Power Party.

Mr. Mitra, Mrs. Aquino's first minister of agriculture, told reporters he was confident he could win the presidency even without the president's blessing.

"I've done my share and I think she understands that I want and think I deserve (the endorsement)," Mr. Mitra told reporters Tuesday. "There's nothing else I can do to convince her."

Sources close to Mrs. Aquino, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that she may postpone the controversial endorsement until closer to the official start of the campaign on Feb. 8.

That would give Mrs. Aquino

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### TASS becomes 'RITA'

MOSCOW (AP) — TASS, the State News Agency that serves as the mouthpiece of the Soviet government for decades, said Wednesday that its name will become "RITA" under a reorganisation ordered by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The Russian Information Minister, Mikhail Poltaranin, told the parliament's media committee that the new agency — Russian Information Telegraph Agency (RITA) — will be merged partially with the old APN news agency. RITA's initials in Russian are the same as in English. "TASS" in Russian stood for Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union. Since the August coup, Russia has taken over most functions of the collapsed Soviet government and closed or transferred the rest. TASS, which dutifully reported the orders of coup plotters like other media, was among the last Soviet institutions to be reorganised by Mr. Yeltsin. Mr. Poltaranin said RITA will continue to use the "TASS" logo on domestic wires but switch to "RITA" on international lines. The news agency will be subordinate to Mr. Yeltsin and the Russian government, he said.

### Haughey denies wiretap allegations

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey Wednesday strongly denied allegations by his former Justice Minister that he knew about the tapping of journalists' telephones. Former closer ally Sean Doherty had said Mr. Haughey knew about the decision to tap the telephones of two Dublin journalists in 1982. But Mr. Haughey told a packed news conference: "I wish to state categorically that I was not aware at the time of the tapping of these telephones and that I was not given and did not see any transcripts of the conversation."

### Murderers executed in U.S.

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (R) — Two Americans sentenced to death for decade-old murders were executed by lethal injection Wednesday after their appeals were rejected. Joe Angel Cordova, 39, convicted of shooting a man dead during a robbery nearly 10 years ago, was executed in Texas after the U.S. Supreme Court denied him an 11th-hour stay. Mark Hopkinson, 42, the only man on Wyoming's death row, was executed at the state prison in rawlins for a 1979 torture murder. Mr. Cordova was the 43rd person executed in Texas since it reinstated the death penalty in 1982. There are 357 people on death row in the state. He was convicted of killing a man with a shotgun in February 1982 after abducting him, with accomplices, from a Houston telephone booth and robbing him. Hopkinson was the first person executed in Wyoming for 26 years and only the 16th in the state this century. He was sentenced in 1979 for ordering the murder of a man called Jeffrey Green, who had been due to testify against him in the 1977 bombing deaths of an attorney, his wife and son. Green's killers have never been caught, and Hopkinson maintained his innocence until the end.

Meanwhile, the government Wednesday lodged four more graft charges against Mrs. Marcos a day after she filed her presidential candidacy in the May national elections.

The government ombudsman charged Mrs. Marcos with violating anti-graft laws in connection with contracts for the lease of properties owned by state-run light rail transit system.

Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez said that in 1984, a year before the trains began operation, Mrs. Marcos awarded leases for commercial space at the train stations to private firms "under terms and conditions manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the government."

Mr. Vasquez said Mrs. Marcos took advantage of her positions at the time as member of the National Assembly, chairman of the Rail Authority, and governor of Metropolitan Manila.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Marcos filed papers to run for president to succeed Mrs. Aquino. The Aquino government has accused the Marcoses of embezzling billions of dollars from the national treasury during Mr. Marcos' 20-year rule.

The government now has filed 53 criminal cases and one civil suit against Mrs. Marcos since she returned from exile in the United States last November. Another 32 civil suits alleging that she amassed her wealth illegally were filed during her exile.

Mrs. Marcos was acquitted by a New York federal grand jury on racketeering charges in July 1990.

## Pakistan seeks talks with U.S. on aid ban

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan will send a top official to Washington for talks on a nuclear row with the United States that has halted U.S. military and economic aid, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Kahn goes to Washington on Feb. 4 for two days of talks with U.S. Under Secretary of State for Security Affairs, Reginald Bartholomew, and other officials, the spokesman said.

All new U.S. aid was halted in October 1990 because of American fears that Pakistan was building nuclear weapons. Economic aid already in the pipeline is still flowing.

Pakistan denies developing nuclear weapons. However U.S. Senator Larry Pressler recently told reporters in Islamabad that Washington was convinced a usable device had been made even if it was not finally assembled.

Sen. Pressler was responsible for the U.S. legislation under which aid was cut.

Pakistan's military has suffered from the ban on fresh arms deliveries. Its frontline air defence of U.S. F-16s has also been badly hit, although a U.S. source emphasised that spare parts were still being supplied on a case-by-case basis on commercial terms.

Earlier this month Pakistani Army Chief General Asif Nawaz went to Washington to seek a relaxation of the arms ban. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif explored the possibility of buying French Mirage 2000 aircraft during a visit to France last week.

Meanwhile a Pakistani minister said Wednesday, Pakistan's alleged development of nuclear weapons was not a major roadblock to Japanese aid and investment.

Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz told reporters that Pakistan's reluctance to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) had come up only in "general terms" during a meeting with Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.

Mr. Boucher noted that the two other exiles were given reduced sentences. "However, in none of the three cases was there serious due process," he said, adding that the U.S. government also deplored the arrest of some 60 human rights activists in Cuba over the last few months.

He said dissidents in Cuba have been the target of "government-sponsored mob violence, citing a mob attack on the home of prominent activists Elizardo and Gerardo Sanchez."

"The countries of the hemisphere and the world share our concern," Mr. Boucher said.

"With these actions the Cuban regime shows its true face. This pattern of brutality betrays the Cuban government's own fear of dissent," Mr. Boucher said.

The latest crash gave long-standing critics of the A320 a chance to repeat claims the fly-by-wire system, which sends command signals electronically rather

## Airbus controversy set to deepen after crash

BARR, France (R) — A team investigating the crash of an Airbus on a routine flight in eastern France came under pressure Wednesday to answer a growing number of questions about the safety of the ultra-modern plane.

A laboratory near Paris has begun examining the two flight recorders of the Air Inter A320, which ploughed into the Vosges Mountains Monday night, killing 87 people.

But Transport Minister Paul Quilès has suggested the recorders might be too damaged to yield significant clues. If so, the mystery over the Airbus — the third of its kind to crash in four years of flying — can only deepen.

"First reports indicate the information yielded (by the flight recorders) is not very important or very interesting," Mr. Quilès told television station Antenne Deux on Tuesday night.

An official panel has been ordered to deliver a preliminary report within a month.

Paris said there were no plans to ground A320s for checks, Mr. Quilès said Tuesday he had ruled out a temporary suspension of A320s.

Flight IT5148 from Lyon to Strasbourg suddenly lost height in freezing fog and crashed into the snowbound Mont Sainte-Odile five minutes before its scheduled arrival time.

It was the third accident in four years for the A320s, pride of the fleet launched by the European Airbus Consortium grouping companies from France, Britain, Germany and Spain.

Nine people including a nine-year-old boy and a baby girl survived, although one was in a critical stage in hospital.

Among the dead was Jean-Pierre Leococ, 44, a Belgian who headed one of Europe's most advanced laboratories in genetic biology and was working on a vaccine against AIDS.

Only 20 of the bodies, many of them mangled or dismembered, had been identified by Wednesday morning. A church in Barr,

the nearest town to the crash site, was preparing a memorial service for the bereaved with Protestant, Catholic and Jewish ministers.

Speculation over the cause of the accident ranged from ice paralysing the aircraft to a problem with the computer-controlled "fly-by-wire" technology Airbus first adapted for civilian use in the A320.

The aircraft, the world's fastest-selling plane, is central to the Airbus campaign to take on American rivals McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. With 251 A320s in operation across the world and 401 in order, no one is keen to find fault with the plane.

But experienced flyers said the approach to Strasbourg Airport was a normal one not likely to pose any problems to pilots with 12,500 hours of commercial flying experience.

The latest crash gave long-standing critics of the A320 a chance to repeat claims the fly-by-wire system, which sends command signals electronically rather

than hydraulically, is too sophisticated for its human operators. Traditionalists also say the decision to cut cabin staff from three to two on A320s deprived the new aircraft of a vital third pair of eyes ready to spot colleagues' errors.

Airbus has declined to speculate on the cause of the accident, but the company has always stood by the fly-by-wire technology, saying it is much safer than conventional systems.

Previous investigations into a 1988 crash at Habsheim in eastern France and a 1990 crash in Bangalore in India both blamed pilot error.

But the first inquiry's results were placed in doubt by a report by the victim's families which found standard procedures with flight recorders following a crash had been flouted.

Mr. Quilès has made it clear no question would this time hover over investigators' findings, saying Tuesday: "The inquiry will be rigorous, transparent and independent."